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# Historical Address

Delivered by Diedrich Willers, of Varick,  
June 13, 1894, at the

## Centennial Celebration

Of the Official Organization of the Town of  
Romulus, N. Y.

GENEVA, N. Y.,  
COURIER JOB DEPARTMENT  
1894

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*Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:*

It is characteristic of the American people to pause at intervals in the progress of time, and review the events of the past.

A little more than a year ago, (May 1st, 1893), there opened in the city of Chicago, Illinois, a grand Exposition or World's fair, in commemoration of the four hundredth anniversary of the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus.

The Columbian fair was visited and patronized during a period of six months, not alone by the American people, but by representatives as well, of nearly all the civilized and enlightened nations of the world, and even some from half civilized and barbarous countries—all vied with each other, in bestowing honors upon the great discoverer—who, while living, had not always received his merited reward and due recognition from the sovereigns under whose auspices he served.

An eminent English historian, speaking of the commemoration of a prominent event, occurring centuries ago, remarked: 'That a people which take no pride in the noble achievements of their ancestors, will never achieve anything worthy to be remembered with pride by their descendants.'

It has been well said—that "it is the province of history, to rescue virtuous deeds from the oblivion, to which a want of records would consign them."

The people of the present town of Romulus, and of the town of Varick, the youngest child of old Romulus, have to-day assembled, to commemorate an important historical epoch in the history of the town—which one hundred years ago was organized by act of the Legislature of this State, at the same time, when the county of Otsego was formed—the centennial of which was last week fittingly observed in the city of Syracuse.

In my remarks, I will in the main, include what I have to say of Varick, with the town of Romulus.

It is not my purpose in reviewing the past, to attempt to produce the unwritten history of the period prior to occupation by the white man.

At the time of General John Sullivan's campaign against the Indians in New York, during the Revolutionary conflict, the territory between Cayuga and Seneca lakes was inhabited chiefly by the Cayuga Tribe of Indians—the line of division between the Cayugas and Senecas, being as believed, the east shore of Seneca lake and northward from the lake to Ontario lake, following substantially the locality of the new Pre-emption line.

These two tribes, with the Mohawks, the Oneidas, the Onondagas and Tuscaroras, formed the confederacy known as the Six Nations or Iroquois Indians—of which it has been said—that their organization and form of government, have been the wonder and admiration of scholars and statesmen of all nations.

It is an interesting and creditable fact, and worthy of notice, that the earliest white visitors in this locality, were prompted in making their visitations, not by hope of gain, but to christianize and ameliorate the condition of the Red man of the forest. I refer to the Jesuit missionaries who visited the Cayuga Indians as early as 1656, and established a mission near Savannah (now in Wayne county) in the territory of old Romulus, about 1670.

The Moravian missionaries, Cammerhoff and Zeisberger, in June, 1750, also visited the Cayugas and passed through our territory in going westward to meet the Senecas, on a mission of peace and bearing the gospel message to them.

Rev. Samuel Kirkland, the self-denying missionary to the Indians, who visited Geneva in 1765, and resided there with the Senecas more than a year, also officiated during that period within our bounds.

During the dark days of Indian warfare in the Wyoming Valley, Pa., preceding the Sullivan expedition, Luke Swetland was captured by the Indians, August 24th, 1778, and taken in captivity to the Indian village of Kendaia, in the bounds of the town of Romulus, where he remained until released by General John Sullivan's army, September 5th, 1779. His interesting Narrative of his captivity and residence of one year and two days at Kendaia, published a number of years ago, forms an entertaining chapter in the history of Romulus.

In this Narrative, Mr. Swetland alludes to the fact that late in the fall of 1778, he sowed one quart of wheat—the first wheat



doubtless sowed by a white man in this county. The spirit of resignation to his fate, and the trust in Divine protection which pervades his narration, as also the mention made of days specially set apart by him for private meditation and prayer, are indeed very pathetic. Mr. Swetland returned with the army to Pennsylvania, where he died at Wyoming Village, January 30, 1823, aged 93 years.

The army of General Sullivan upon its march northwest to the Genesee river, reached our town, on Sunday, September 5th, 1799. A halt of one day was made at Kendaia village, situated one-half mile east from Seneca lake, about two miles south of the present railway station and modern village called Kendaia, upon lands now owned by Edward Van Vleet, upon Military Lot, number seventy-nine, called also by the army, Appletown. The village at that time, consisted of twenty or more houses of hewn logs, with roofs thatched with the bark of trees, and some of the houses were painted. Kendaia was evidently an old and important town, as the superior style and condition of its houses indicated, and here, too, were found tombs of Indian warriors. At this village, the army found an apple orchard of about sixty trees, with peach trees and other fruit.

When the army marched from Kendaia on the following day, (September 6th), the village was left in ashes. A march of only three miles northward was made that day, to a ravine sometimes called Indian Hollow, at or near the present Varick line. Leaving this camp early on the morning of September 7th, a march of eight miles northward, along or near the lake shore, to the outlet of Seneca lake, was made, and Kanadesaga (Geneva) being reached, the army again halted.

On the return of the army from the Genesee river, the main army returned through the territory of Romulus, September 20th, 21st and 22d, over the same route as taken in the outward march, encamping on the night of September 21st, two miles south of Appletown.

While the main army was at Geneva, several detachments were sent out to destroy Indian villages—Skoiyase having already been destroyed September 8th. One of these detachments under

command of Colonel Henry Dearborn, marched southward upon the west side of Cayuga lake, starting on September 21st, and on September 22d, 1779, destroyed the Indian village Swah-ya-wa-nah, on Military Lot number 71, (on the farm now owned by Edward R. Dean), in Romulus. This detachment encamped on the nights of September 21st and 22d, in the territory of Romulus and rejoined the main army near Newtown, (now Elmira), September 26th. All the journals of the Sullivan expedition, speak in the strongest possible terms, of the rich fields of corn, the abundance of fruit trees, melons, and vegetables, which were found and either used or destroyed, as a punishment for the barbarities inflicted upon the white settlements by the Indians.

A number of the early settlers of Romulus, suffered Indian captivity, during or after the Revolutionary war, among whom may be mentioned Joseph Wyckoff and Kezia Foree, the lady who afterward became his wife; also Andrew McKnight and Mrs. Mary Swarthout, wife of John Swarthout.

It is not, however, necessary to follow further, the army of General Sullivan, which so severely punished the Indians,—the management of which campaign was accorded the approval of General George Washington and the Continental Congress.

The war of the Revolution terminated in 1783, and the soldiers of the army returning to their homes—some of them, who had accompanied General Sullivan, with pleasant recollections of the picturesque lakes and fertile soil of western New York.

Soon after the close of the war, the State of New York, by treaties with the Onondaga and Cayuga Indian tribes, acquired title in 1788 and 1789, (February 25th) to a large area of land lying east of Seneca lake and extending north to Lake Ontario, which was laid out into 28 townships of 100 lots of 600 acres each—known as the "Military townships," which were set apart as bounty lands to New York soldiers of the Revolutionary war, to fulfill promises made to them for their patriotic services. After many delays, the military townships were surveyed in 1790, under direction of Surveyor General Simeon De Witt, who became a resident of Ithaca afterwards—the township of Romulus, (No. 11) having been surveyed, by Benjamin Dey and others—and patents

were issued by the State, to soldiers, for the same, in July, 1790.

Many of the brave soldiers had, however, become wearied with long waiting for action by the State, and had sold or transferred their titles, for a mere song, so to speak, and much confusion in titles afterwards occurring, the same were passed upon and settled by a State commission, appointed under Chapter 51, Laws of 1797, known as the "Onondaga Commissioners." Comparatively few of the old soldiers became actual settlers upon the Military tract, which was on March 5th, 1794, organized as the county of Onondaga, (by Chap. 18, laws of that year) with Romulus, Ovid and Ulysses, (all afterwards towns of Seneca county) among the towns thereof.

The names of the Military townships given them by the State Commissioners of the Land Office, July 3, 1790, are chiefly drawn from Grecian and Roman history, and our town of Romulus, bears the name of the founder of ancient Rome, of whom we are informed by legend, that with his brother, he was in early childhood, for a time, nourished by a mother wolf.\*

The Military township of Romulus, as mapped, contained 100 lots of 600 acres each, beginning at the northeast corner of Seneca lake and bounded north by Seneca river, west by the county line on the west shore of Seneca lake, south by Ovid, and east by the county line in Cayuga lake and the West Cayuga Reservation; of which Military lots, a part—Nos. 6, 7, 8 and 9, are now in the town of Seneca Falls—lots 1 to 5 and 10 to 42, in the town of Fayette—lots 43 to 63 and the north part of lot 69, in the town of Varick, and the rest of the lots, from 64 to 100, including the south part of Lot 69, in the town of Romulus.

The chain of settlement of this locality by civil jurisdiction westward from Albany county, being by erection of new counties, first Montgomery (1772), then Herkimer (Feb. 16, 1791), then Onondaga, then Cayuga, and at last Seneca county, March 24th, 1804. The town of Romulus comes by succession from the old town of Whitestown, once embracing the greater part of central

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\* A photograph of statuary in the capitol of ancient Rome, representing the wolf suckling Romulus and Remus, hung upon the platform on the day of the centennial celebration.

and western New York and the town of Peru, incorporated in 1792, and abolished in 1794, when Onondaga county was erected.

When the town of Romulus was incorporated by the Legislature in 1794, its boundaries were described by the Onondaga county act: as follows: "All that part of said county, comprehending the *Townships* of Romulus, Junius and Galen, together with the lands lying west of the townships of Hannibal and Cato, north of the said township of Galen and south of Lake Ontario, as also all that part of the lands reserved to the Cayuga nation of Indians, lying on the west side of Cayuga lake—shall be and is erected into a *town* by the name of Romulus."

The area of the *town* of Romulus it will be seen, comprised the three Military townships of Romulus, Junius and Galen of 60,000 acres of land each, a considerable portion of the Military township of Sterling, the Williamson Compensation Patent, etc., comprehended within the territory lying north of Galen township, and between the same and lake Ontario, about 80,000 acres—and also the West Cayuga Indian Reservation now in Varick, Fayette and Seneca Falls, laid out into 84 lots aggregating 19,566 acres, which by treaty with the Cayugas at Cayuga Ferry, July 27th, 1795, became the property of the State, and the Canoga and Skoiyase Reservations of 600 acres each. The total area of Romulus from March 5th, 1794, to March 14th, 1800—when the town of Fayette (Washington) was erected—covered fully 280,000 acres, of which 140,000 acres are now in Seneca county, and the other one half in Wayne county—a stretch of magnificent country with rich and fertile soil, extending at least forty-five miles from Ovid at the south to Lake Ontario at the north, with a width of from ten to fifteen miles. The west boundary, from Seneca lake northward to Ontario lake, followed the new Pre-emption line. The area of the original Romulus, as here given, does not include any part of the waters of Lake Ontario. The north bounds of old Romulus were the north bounds of this State, formed by the line between Canada and the United States.

The original territory includes seven towns of Seneca county—Romulus, Varick, Fayette, Junius, Waterloo, Seneca Falls and Tyre—and the towns of Galen, Savannah, Wolcott, Butler, Rose

and Huron in Wayne county. This large area, comprising a tract of land nearly one-half as large as one of the small States of the Union, now has a population of 36,400 of whom 20,700 reside in Seneca county, including fully three-fourths of the population of this county. (See abstract of patents in Appendix A).

It is sad to think, that the once powerful Cayuga tribe of Indians, does not to-day own a foot of the soil of this State—while only the Onondaga, Oneida and Tuscarora tribes of the Six Nations still hold small reservations of land in this State, under their own names. The Senecas, once the most populous and warlike of the tribes of the Six Nations, now live, indeed, upon State reservations, which however no longer bear their name.

In the legislative records of this State, may be found a petition for relief, from some of the early pioneer settlers between Cayuga and Seneca lakes, in which they set forth, that they made settlements upon the Military Tract, then unallotted, in the year 1788, six years before the organization of the town of Romulus. (See copy of Petition, in Appendix).

The names of David Wisner, Anthony, John and Nathaniel Swarthout and David Depue, are included in the petition, and they may undoubtedly be regarded as the earliest settlers, within the territory of the present town of Romulus. The Swarthouts located on Military Lot 94, David Wisner on Lot 95, and David Depue near the center of the town.

The names of James Cooley and James King, also appear in the Petition, but their places of location cannot be ascertained, and it may possibly have been in the Varick part of the town.

The earliest permanent settlements were made along the west shore of the town, along or near Seneca Lake, with a few settlements along Cayuga lake, on Military Lots 71 and 78.

In 1789 (the year in which the machinery of the government of the United States under its Constitution, was set in motion, and George Washington was inaugurated as the first President) and from year to year, up to the official organization of the town in 1794, there were gradual additions made to the pioneer settlers, from Pennsylvania and New Jersey, Orange and other eastern counties of this State, Long Island, &c. Among the settlers dur-

ing this period, may be mentioned Abraham Brown, John Fleming, James Finch, James Alexander, Alla McMath, Stephen Miller, Benjamin Sutton, James McKnight, William Seely, Benajah Boardman, William Winter, Timothy Cone and Captain Andrew Smith, some of whom have no descendants now left in the town.

Early in the year of organization, 1794, came John Sayre and Haynes Bartlett. The first named, settled on Lot 72 and the latter located a farm on Lot 65 near Seneca lake, which has been in possession of his descendants to this date, and his grandson, our presiding officer to-day, now lives upon the spot where his grandfather first located. In the interval from 1794 to 1800, large accessions were made to the population of the town, of whom a few pioneers will be named:

Isaac Johnson, Joseph Wyckoff, Elijah and Ephraim Kinne, Joseph Hunt, Thomas Blain, Jonas Seely, Joshua Hallock, Capt. Abel Frisbie, Bastian Williams, Ezekiel Hays, John Stone, Samuel Waldron, Asa Smith, with the Huff, Bainbridge, Bailey, Finton, Denton, Verkes, Shattuck and Brewster families.

In that part of Romulus now in Varick, the permanent settlement began it is believed a year or two later. Benjamin Dey who surveyed the military tract in 1790, became an owner of several lots therein and it is supposed, located upon Military Lot 49, in 1791 or 1792, having erected the first frame house in town, already in 1794. Other early settlers in the territory of Varick, prior to 1800, were James Cooley, Peter Basum, Jacob Lowden, Frederick Kistler, John King, Jr., James King, James Barr, Joseph Haynes, Robert White, Andrew McKnight, James Bennett, John Williams, Samuel Falkinburg, with the Hood, Hathaway, Beach, Karr and Woodruff families.

Soon after the opening of the present century, population rapidly increased and more than doubled in the first decade. Among the early settlers after 1800 may be mentioned: Dr. Ethan Watson, Wm. W. Folwell, Mather Marvin, Ezra Miller, Ira Giddings, Jared Van Vleet, and the Baldrige, Bryant, Hayt, Sharp, Coe, Gurnee, Doremus, McLafferty, Warne, Van Duyn, Marsh, Terhune and Burton families in Romulus and David Harris, William Blain, James Monroe, Skillman Doughty, Joseph Darrow, Jephtha

Wade, David Edwards, and the Lemmon, Jacobus, Steele, Burroughs, Christopher, Roberts, Crane, King, Wilcox, Hinkley, Emens, Allen, Abbott, Sample, Hunt, Ayres, Ludlum, Mann, Ambrose, and McDuffee families, in the Varick portion of the town.

Beginning with the early years of the century and indeed during the first quarter thereof, there were large additions made to the population of Romulus (chiefly in the part thereof in Varick) of families of Pennsylvania-Germans of the name Gambee, Frantz, Gamber, Kuney, Leisenring, Fatzinger, Pontius, Goodman, Ernberger, Stahl, Lautenschlager, Crobaugh, Blasser, Deal, Ritter, Acker, Lerch, Yost, Braun, Miller and Bergstresser, forming with their descendants, a valuable accession to the population.

With such an admixture of sturdy settlers, as the Scotch, Irish and Germans of Pennsylvania, the Dutch of New Jersey and Long Island, with a sprinkling of Yankees—the early population was made up—and the characteristics of their descendants have been maintained, as those of a frugal, industrious, hospitable, conservative and reliable people—not subject to frequent fluctuations and changes, but cautious, stable and trustworthy in all the relations of life, public and private.

I will not forget to give credit here, and honor due, to the many patriots of the Revolutionary war, who settled in Romulus—an important element in its make up, being constituted by this sturdy, patriotic people, many of whose descendants now inhabit the town. I regret, that I cannot present a full roster, containing their names

Well may it be said of many of these Revolutionary fathers :

“ They left the ploughshare in the mould,  
 Their flocks and herds without a fold,  
 The sickle in the unshorn grain,  
 The corn, half garnered on the plain,  
 And mustered in their simple dress,  
 For wrongs to seek a stern redress,  
 To right those wrongs, come weal, come woe,  
 To perish, or o’ercome the foe ”

It is difficult in the absence of any system of registration, to give with accuracy, a satisfactory account of the early births, marriages and deaths in Romulus, prior to say 1800.

It is believed that the first female child of the pioneer settlers, born in town, was Eley Fleming, daughter of John Fleming, born July 21, 1791, and the first male child, George Alexander, a son of James, born March 10, in the same year. Other early births were those of Stephen R. Miller in 1792, Eliza Sutton and Samuel Fleming in 1793, Arazina Cone, in 1794, Kezia Bartlett, in 1795 and Eliza Sayre in 1796. John Williams, born in 1796, it is believed, was the first child born upon the West Cayuga Reservation along Cayuga lake, in the town of Varick. A daughter and a son of Benajah Boardman, born in 1791 and 1793 respectively, in this county, should, it is believed, be added to this list.

Information as to early marriages, is very meagre. The lack of local clergy, perhaps led to postponements, and certainly did not tend to promote marriages. The first marriage of which we have knowledge, was that of Timothy Cone and Mary Gorham, daughter of Jabez Gorham, in 1793. The marriage of Elizabeth McMath to Mahlon Bainbridge, took place Dec. 22, 1796. Other early marriages were those of Elijah Kinne and Hester Wisner, in 1797, Eliphalet Shattuck and Jane Wiley and John Stone and Philinda Shattuck in 1798, and of Isaac Johnson and Mary Thurston in 1799.

Many early burials were made in private family burial grounds, at an early day, and headstones in the old cemetery at Willard, formerly Lancaster, date back to 1795. There were also early interments at the Romulus Baptist church cemetery and in the cemetery at Romulus village, commencing early in this century.

The first death in town of which any trace has been obtained, is that of Jesse Fleming, April 29, 1795. Margaret McMath died in July of the same year, aged 21 years, and Archibald McMath on September, 1796, aged 18 years. Joshua Reeves, a pioneer settler died in 1797, and his will was proven by the surrogate of Onondaga County, before the erection of Cayuga county.

Other deaths of prominent pioneer settlers in the early history of the town, were those of John Fleming in 1800, Wm. Seeley in 1803, Alla McMath in 1804, James Alexander in 1805 and James McKnight in 1808.



The history of Romulus gives many instances of longevity, to which its salubrious air, from its location between the lakes, and the occupation and simple habits of its people, have doubtless contributed.

A notable instance may be mentioned in the person of Mrs. Arazina Cone Fleming—a daughter of Timothy Cone and his wife Mary Gorham. She was born in Romulus, October 9, 1794, and her husband, Robert Fleming, an estimable citizen, to whom she was married Dec. 7, 1826, died in the town, Feby. 3, 1858.

It was my pleasure, a few days ago, to see and converse with Mrs. Fleming, who resides at South Waterloo, in this county, upon the territory of the military township of Romulus. I found her bright and cheerful, with faculties very little impaired, and but for an accident which befell her some months ago, she would be present with us to-day, (as she is in spirit), to celebrate her own centennial, as well as that of the town of her birth. Were she here, what a remarkable reminder of the events of a century past, would she present to us! In her absence, she sends cordial greetings, and salutations to the old town of Romulus.\* All honor to the worthy centennarian!

The earliest families removing here from Pennsylvania, by primitive conveyance by water and on land, in the covered Pennsylvania wagons, described by someone, as the "ark" or "ship of our inland commerce," usually came to Newtown (Elmira) and thence to the head of Seneca or Cayuga lake, or came the entire way by wagon.

Others coming from Long Island and the Eastern States, came by flat boats or bateaux, up the Hudson and Mohawk rivers, crossing by portage to Wood Creek and Oneida lake to Seneca river, and ascending the same to the foot of Cayuga or Seneca lake.

It would, indeed be curious to know, what kind of craft was employed upon our lakes in those days, by our pioneers; perhaps a primitive flat-boat or dug out canoe.

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\* At this stage of the address the entire audience arose, in honor of Mrs. Fleming, and in recognition and acknowledgment of her salutation.

The Documentary History of the State of New York, makes mention, however, that in 1792, a small boat and canoe were plying at the foot of Seneca lake, and at Geneva, in 1796, a sailing sloop of forty tons burthen was launched upon the same lake, for freighting purposes.

Elkanah Watson of Albany, N. Y., who was an early purchaser of soldier's titles to lands in the military township of Romulus, visited here in September 1791, crossing Cayuga lake at the Cayuga ferry, in a boat, in which he came up the Mohawk river and by portage to Seneca river and up the same to Cayuga lake. He mentions that he *sailed* northward to Seneca river, and passed up the same to Geneva, having been assisted in passing Seneca Falls by Job Smith, then located there, at the carrying place around the Falls!

Mr. Watson in the published journal of his tour, of 1791, in speaking of Cayuga lake, says "I was delighted on entering this charming lake. The shores on each side swell into gentle eminences; but our view south was obstructed by a point of land projecting from each shore."

In his journal under date of Sep. 29, 1791, he speaks of his approach by Seneca river to Seneca lake, on the evening of that day, in this eloquent and prophetic language—"The sun was just setting as we entered the lake, which opened upon us like a new creation rising to our view in picturesque and romantic beauty. Our prospect extended south, over a bold sheet of water. The tops of the hills and trees were just tinged with the rays of the departing sun; the evening was serene; and my mind involuntarily expanded, in anticipating the time when the borders of the lake will be stripped of nature's livery, and in its place will be rich enclosures, pleasant villas, numerous flocks, herds, etc., and it will be inhabited by a happy race of people, enjoying the rich fruits of their own labors and the luxury of sweet liberty and independence, approaching to a millennial state."

Mr. Watson, adds in his journal, that on the day following—September 21, 1891, he re-embarked and traversed the lake obliquely to Appletown, (where his relatives the late Dr. Ethan

Watson, settled about fifteen years afterward) eleven miles by his water route from Geneva. Arriving at Appletown, he says,—“We pitched our tent on a fine tract of land. It contains extensive orchards of scattered old trees, the only fruit trees of the country. Here Sullivan’s conquering army wreaked its vengeance, by destroying orchards, corn, wigwams, &c. Many of the trees are girdled; and marks of the destroying axe of the soldiery are yet to be seen in every direction.” Mr. Watson returned Sept. 23d, overland from Appletown, by an Indian path, to Cayuga ferry, a distance of seventeen miles.

My audience will pardon me, if I give further extracts from Mr. Watson’s journal of 1791, descriptive of the charming lakes which wash respectively, the east and west shores of our town.

On Sept. 24th, he started up Cayuga lake, by boat. He says: “We landed occasionally; noticed distant smoke and here and there a log hut embosomed in the venerable forest. In the south-west quarter, the township of Ovid made its appearance. It rises beautifully from the shore toward the centre. The tops of the trees resemble waving fields of wheat, at a distance. The map of the world does not exhibit, in any other country, two lakes equal in magnitude to the Seneca and Cayuga, so singularly and happily situated. What a fertile theme for poets, painters, philosophers and travelers, for the last two thousand years, had they been found in Italy!”

Speaking of the country between the lakes, Mr. Watson adds: “In general, except toward the south, the country lying between these beautiful lakes, rises gradually in symmetry from the opposite shores toward the centre, producing a pleasing effect. Whenever it reaches a cultivated state, by the vigorous arm of freemen, it will become the ‘Paradise of America.’ Nothing can exceed the beauty of the country on the west shore of Cayuga lake, viewed at about five miles from its entrance, including both the Cayuga Reservation and the town of Ovid, which bear a strong resemblance to the west shore of Seneca lake. The tops of the trees were in beautiful uniformity, the symmetry being in no manner broken by hills of great magnitude, except in one place,

where there is a small cluster of white pines, overlooking all the adjacent regions."

Mr. Watson concludes his glowing description with this eloquent peroration: "In a word, I almost deplored the short span of human life, that I cannot witness the happiness of those blessed generations of Americans, yet unborn, who are destined to inherit these delightful regions."

It will not detract from Mr. Watson's really poetic prose description, if we quote the lines of a poem addressed to Seneca lake, and applicable as well to Cayuga:

"On thy fair bosom, silver lake,  
The wild swan spreads his snowy sail,  
And round his breast the ripples break,  
As down he bears before the gale."

"On thy fair bosom, waveless stream,  
The dipping paddle echoes far,  
And flashes in the moonlight gleam,  
And bright reflects the polar star.

"The waves along the pebbly shore,  
As blows the north wind, heave their foam,  
And curl around the dashing oar,  
As late the boatman hies him home.

"How sweet, at set of sun to view,  
Thy golden mirror spreading wide,  
And see the mist of mantling blue  
Float round the distant mountain's side!

"At midnight hour, as shines the moon,  
A sheet of silvery spreads below,  
And swift she cuts, at highest noon,  
Light clouds, like wreaths of purest snow.

"On thy fair bosom, silver lake,  
O! I could ever sweep the oar,  
When early birds at morning wake,  
And evening tells us toil is o'er."

—*Percival*.

Mr. Watson again visited Seneca county in 1818, as the guest of Colonel Wilhelmus Mynderse of Seneca Falls, and then already witnessed many marvelous changes—notably the opening of canal

locks at that village, at the time of his visit. He died at Port Kent, N. Y., December 5th, 1842, aged 85 years.

The Civil History of Romulus may be properly divided into three periods :

1. From its organization in 1794 to its first division, March 14, 1800.
2. From March 1800 to February 6, 1830.
3. From February 1830, to the present time.

The act of 1794, erecting the town of Romulus, provided for holding the first town meeting at the house of Benajah Boardman, and we must suppose that it was accordingly held there.

It has been well said, in substance, that the town meeting is deserving of especial consideration, since here are, or should be, practiced, pure Democratic—Republican methods. Here all meet on the same level. Here is free speech, without fear or favor. The people of the town meet once a year, to confer together for the general good, to discuss questions affecting taxation, the public schools, roads and bridges, the support of the poor and the election of town officers.

The first town meeting held in town, April 1, 1794, elected as its chief officer—Supervisor, Benajah Boardman, and William Winter as Town Clerk and the town records have, it is gratifying to say, been preserved complete to this date. At the election of 1794, there were also elected three Assessors, three Highway Commissioners, two Overseers of poor, two constables, two pound keepers, two fence viewers, a Collector and five Overseers of Highways.

Mr. Boardman was re-elected Supervisor in 1795, at a town meeting held at James McKnight's, (on the shore of Seneca Lake, where C. C. Pontius now resides), and again in 1796.

The following facts have been gathered as to his life :

Benajah Boardman was born at Newington, town of Wethersfield, Connecticut, May 14, 1749. He was twice married and was the father of nine children.

He removed to Newtown Elmira at an early day, where one of his daughters was born, April 17, 1789. Soon afterward he removed to Ovid or its vicinity, where he was interested in a primitive grist mill, one of the first in the county, erected in 1793, on Lot Number Two, Ovid, a little west of Ovid Village. One of his daughters, Lucy, was there born, November 23, 1791, and a son, Benajah, his youngest child, was also born there, October 14, 1793.

The exact locality of Mr. Boardman's first residence in Romulus, can not now be positively ascertained, and it is possible, that his residence, attributed to the town of Ovid, was all the time across the line in Romulus, or upon Lot Number 72, which he purchased as early as September, 1790. He is known later on, to have resided at Boardmansburgh, near the center of the present town of Fayette and several years after the erection of that town, was elected its Supervisor, in 1803. He also served many years as a magistrate and was always an active and enterprising citizen. Late in life, he removed from the Burgh to a farm north of Canoga Village, and near Cayuga lake, in the town of Fayette, where he died after a brief illness from a prevailing disease known at the time as "The Epidemic" (and which at first baffled the skill of physicians) February 27, 1813, aged sixty-four years. He was buried in the cemetery at the Burgh, near where he had long resided, and it is to be regretted, that no head stone marks the place of his interment.

At the town meeting held April 4, 1797, George Bailey was elected Supervisor, and he was re-elected as such in 1798 and 1799. In the latter year, the county of Cayuga was erected, (Chapter 26, Laws of 1799) and Romulus became a town of that county. The number of overseers of highways had increased from five in 1794, to seventeen, in 1799, showing marked attention to the laying out and improvement of the public roads.

The immense territorial area of Romulus was divided by the Legislature, by Chapter 24, passed March 14, 1800, and the town of Washington, (Fayette), was formed therefrom, which included all of the territory of Romulus north of the present town

of Varick. In 1803, Feby. 12, by Chapter Seven, Laws of that year, the town of Junius was erected, comprising all the original territory of Romulus, north of the present boundaries of Fayette.

During the period from 1704 to 1700, but few important questions were considered at the town meetings of Romulus.

In April, 1798, it was Resolved that William Brewster, Daniel Sayre and Benjamin Dey be a Committee to examine into the state of the taxes which have been collected in this town previous to town meeting."

The town meeting of 1797, voted a bounty of three pounds (£3) for the scalp of each wolf killed in town, and in 1798 a bounty of twenty shillings was voted for the scalp of each bear so killed. The early settlers occasionally encountered wolves, panthers and bears, and thrilling adventures and narrow escapes are related, but the town records show no disbursements for wolf or bear scalps.

The town meeting of 1700, voted in favor of dividing the town, and George Bailey, Benjamin Dey and Benajah Boardman, were appointed a committee to determine where the line shall run.

A special town meeting held Nov. 26, 1700, for the purpose of choosing three delegates to meet a convention of Delegates in the newly erected county of Cayuga, elected John Sayre, William Brewster, and George Bailey. The same town meeting took the unusual precaution, to elect James McKnight, Asa Smith, Walter Watrons and Phineas Tuthill, a committee to give instructions to such delegates to Cayuga.

The town meeting from year to year, also adopted resolutions declaring swine to be free commoners. Pound Masters were elected, and marks to distinguish sheep and cattle when estray, were recorded in the Town Clerk's Office, as early as April, 1704.

At the town meeting of 1700, the first trustees of the gospel and school lot of the town were elected, to wit: Benjamin Dey, Daniel Sayre and Col. Wilhelmus Mynderse. The last named, resided at the falls of the Seneca River, where he died January 30, 1838, aged seventy years.

George Bailey was again chosen supervisor of Romulus under its reduced territorial area, at the town meeting held in April 1800, but died before the expiration of his term, and John Sayre was chosen to fill his vacancy Sept 2, 1800.

It is a matter of regret, that upon diligent inquiry, no facts can be ascertained, in the history of George Bailey, one of the earliest settlers at Lancaster, on Seneca Lake, for a time also called in his honor, Baileytown—and who it is believed was a patriot soldier of the revolutionary war.

During the period from 1800 to 1830, the town was served by six persons as supervisors, three of which number were chosen to serve during an aggregate term of 25 years, one for two years, and two for one year each.

The long tenure and continuance of the public men of this town, in official position, and in the confidence of their constituency, seems to have been thus early established.

Judge John Sayre, born at Blooming Grove, Orange Co., N. Y., July 24, 1767, was at the town meeting in April, 1801, again chosen supervisor, and continued such, by repeated elections to and including 1808. He again filled the same office in 1830, 1831 and 1832.

He was elected the first Member of Assembly from Seneca County (he being then also supervisor) in 1804, again in 1808, and later in life, was a third time chosen, in 1831. He served also as surrogate of the county from Feb. 1811 to April 1813, and as county treasurer from Oct. 1817 to Oct. 1821. He was a magistrate and served as associate judge of Seneca County Courts, for many years, also as loan commissioner for this county, and was the first post-master of Romulus postoffice, established Oct. 16, 1802. He died—March 4, 1848, in the 81st year of his age.

In these days of lightning express railroad trains and fast mails, it is interesting to learn of a mail service during Judge Sayre's early post-mastership, by carrier once a week from Geneva, on horseback, with the letters and mail carried in a very small bag, or at times in the vest or coat pocket of the mail carrier, and until the primitive mail carrier gave way to the stage line along



Seneca Lake, from Geneva to Judge Sayre's and Lancaster or Ovid, and thence southward. This post-office was not removed to Romulus village until a number of years after its establishment, when the stage line from Geneva to Ithaca was also changed to an inland stage mail passing through Romulus village.

During the incumbency of Judge Sayre as supervisor, the county of Seneca was erected March 29, 1804 from Cayuga county, by Chapter 31, Laws of 1804.

The act erecting the county of Seneca, shrewdly drawn, directed the county seat to be located in the town Ovid, not more than four miles south from the north line of Ovid, and not less than three miles from the Seneca or Cayuga Lake, thus effectually shutting off the village of Lancaster, in the southwest corner of the town of Romulus, then a larger and much more promising village than Ovid.

This action of the Legislature gave much dissatisfaction in the town of Romulus, and at a special town meeting held June 9, 1804, a ringing set of resolutions were adopted, breathing the spirit and fire of the many Revolutionary sires, who were present at the meeting, to wit :

*Resolved*, That the people conceiving it will be oppressive to them to raise and collect a tax this year for the purpose of building a Court House and Goal, in our country—do therefore, direct and require our Supervisor, John Sayre, not to consent to or countenance the laying or levying a tax for the above mentioned purpose. We, the said people, intend petitioning the Legislature at their next session for a repeal of the law appropriating money for the above said purpose, until we feel ourselves better able to support such a tax, at which time we will also petition the Legislature to pass a law for the above said purpose. Any other mode in procuring a law for raising of money in a county for local purposes, *we conceive to be repugnant to the rights of a free people.*

*Resolved*, That we, said people conceiving the place, appointed by law for the building of a Court House and Goal, as no ways convenient to the people of said county, do also intend petitioning the Legislature for redress in the premises, and do hereby request

of John Sayre, whom it appears is appointed by law one of the commissioners for fixing the spot whereon to erect said buildings, not to act in that capacity, until we have applied for redress in the mode above prescribed."

The Legislature, however, failed to grant the request of the people of Romulus, and in 1805, having amended the law, so as to require the location of the county buildings on Military Lot Number Three, at Ovid Village, the question was then settled, by so locating there. The Board of Supervisors in October, 1804, however, voted to raise only one thousand dollars for a Court House and Jail, to which amount, additions were made by subsequent Boards until the buildings were completed, in 1808.

Jonas Seely, born July 23, 1776,—succeeded to the office of supervisor, by election in April, 1808, and held the same by repeated re-elections to and including the year 1814. He was again elected to the same office in 1822, 1826 and 1833. In 1821, (with Hon. Robert S. Rose, of Fayette), he was chosen to represent Seneca County as delegate in the Constitutional Convention held in this State, in that year,—and in 1823 and 1824 he was elected Member of Assembly from this county. In 1832, he was also elected a Presidential Elector of this State, and voted, in the Electoral College, for Andrew Jackson for President of the United States.

Judge Seely served as a magistrate of Seneca County, and as an associate Judge for a number of years. He died Aug. 15, 1851, aged 75 years.

William W. Folwell was born at Southampton, Bucks Co., Pa., January 28, 1768. Mr. Folwell graduated at Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, in 1792, and possessed a thorough classical education. He removed to Romulus in 1807, settled near the centre of the town, and was elected supervisor in April, 1815, serving as such one year. He served as the president of the Ithaca and Geneva Turnpike company, incorporated in 1810, and was always an active and influential citizen. He died Oct. 13, 1858, aged 90 years.

Samuel Blain, born at Warwick, Orange Co., N. Y., January 17, 1777, who was elected supervisor in April 1816, was another

of the public men of Romulus who long enjoyed the favor of his fellow citizens. He was re-elected supervisor from year to year to and including 1821, also in 1827, 1828 and 1829. After the town of Varick was taken from Romulus, he was chosen its supervisor in 1831, 1832, and 1833. Mr. Blain served in the war of 1812, and afterward arose to the rank of Colonel in the local militia. He served many years as a magistrate, and was elected Member of Assembly for this county, for the year 1830, and served in the Legislature, which erected the town of Varick. He died January 2, 1840, aged 63 years.

Mather Marvin, was elected supervisor, at the town meeting of April, 1823, and again in 1825. Dr. Marvin was born at Lyme, Connecticut, in 1786. He removed to Romulus village about 1810, where he established himself as a medical practitioner, and subsequently also engaged there in mercantile business, afterward moving upon the Wade farm, on Military Lot Number 59. He served for a time in the war of 1812, and acted for a number of years as a magistrate and school inspector in Varick. In 1828, he was elected county clerk, of Seneca County, and served a full term in that capacity. He removed to Lodi, Michigan, in 1833, and died there April 8, 1862, aged 76 years.

Anthony Dey, elected supervisor in April, 1824, the oldest son of Dr. Philip Dey, was born near Paterson, New Jersey, February 6, 1781. He removed in 1806, to the town of Romulus, and there established a tannery on Military Lot Number 49, (one mile west of Lemmon's Corners in Varick). Varick postoffice, established Nov. 19, 1832, is now located near where the tannery stood, and locally known as Dey's Corners. Mr. Dey was elected the first supervisor of Varick in April, 1830, the town having received its name from Col. Richard Varick, a relative of the Dey family. In the fall of 1830, Mr. Dey removed to Seneca Falls, where he engaged in milling business. He died there Nov. 14, 1851, in the 70th year of his age.

It is not my purpose to continue the biographical sketches of supervisors chosen during the third period, after the division and the erection of Varick, in 1830. The records of the two towns will

show, that the position of supervisor has very generally been held by capable business men, although for shorter terms than in the olden times. (See full list of Supervisors in Appendix C).

Nor has the town of Romulus been wanting in prominent men, in other positions of trust and responsibility.

John D. Coe, born at Ramapo, Orange (now Rockland) county, June 12, 1790, settled on Military Lot, No. 70, in Romulus, in 1816. He acted as magistrate and associate judge of the Seneca County courts for many years. In the years 1834 and 1835 he served Seneca county in the Assembly of this State. For a period of forty years, Judge Coe was the treasurer of the Seneca county agricultural society, and in the earlier years of his residence, his ability and experience as a surveyor, was frequently called into practice, in the sub-division of lands. He died in November, 1878, aged 88 years.

Helim Sutton, son of one of the early settlers, was born in Romulus, January 19, 1803. He was elected to serve in the Assembly at Albany, for the year 1844. He also held the office of supervisor of his town in 1854, and died near the spot where he was born, November 18, 1884, in the 82d year of his age.

Mr. Sutton was well known as a man of decided convictions and firmness, and an instance of his decision of character is related. By the statutes of this State, it is declared that "Seneca county is bounded on the west, by the west shore of Seneca Lake." While acting as one of the board of county excise commissioners, about 25 years before his death, with the late Jesse Abbott, of Varick, and another, a structure had been erected on the west side of Seneca Lake, near Dresden, outside of low water mark and connected with the main land adjoining, in which building it was proposed to engage in business, by evading the excise laws. Mr. Sutton insisted that the jurisdiction of Seneca county and Romulus, extending to the west shore of Seneca lake at the point in question, brought this building and the business transacted therein, under the control of his board, and the owner and manager of the same, was compelled to conform to the laws of the State.

William T. Johnson, a son of one of the pioneers of Romulus, was born in the town, Dec. 22, 1803. He served as magistrate for a number of years, and supervisor in the years 1843 and 1844. He was elected to serve as Member of Assembly for this county, for the year 1864, and died in the town in which he was born, Feb. 3, 1890, in the 87th year of his age.

Peter J. VanVleet, born in this county, March 2, 1815, and still living in the adjoining town of Ovid, served as supervisor of Romulus, in the years 1846, 1847, 1858, 1859 and 1860. While residing in this town, he was also elected to serve as Member of Assembly for this county, for the year 1862.

In later years, James M. Martin, son of the late Wm. Martin, of this town, born Oct. 20, 1839, (now of Rochester), represented this county in the Assembly for the year 1888. He also served as county treasurer of Seneca county by election, for a term of three years, 1873—1876.

William Halsey Kinne, born in Romulus, April 22, 1846, a grandson of one of the early settlers of this town, represented Seneca county in the Assembly for the year 1892. He has served as chairman of the Committee on orator, poet and historian of the Romulus centennial, and his committee selected for all of those positions, at the celebration to-day, persons born in the territory of the original town of Romulus.

From that portion of Romulus now in Varick, Orange W. Wilkinson, a native of Cayuga county, N. Y., born in 1806, was elected to serve in the Assembly of this State for the year 1840. Mr. Wilkinson served also as inspector of common schools and magistrate of the town, for many years. He died July 24, 1890, aged 84 years.

Robert R. Steele, was born in New Jersey, Dec. 12, 1805. He removed to this county, early in life, and engaged in mercantile pursuits, at Romulus village. He was elected supervisor of Varick in 1842, 1843 and 1850, and was appointed and served as county treasurer of this county, from 1844 to 1847. He was elected Member of Assembly for Seneca county for the years 1852 and 1870, and died in April 1881, aged 75 years. (See also Appendix F).

The town of Romulus has also furnished incumbents for other prominent public positions, and in the active business walks of life, both within this county and in other counties and States.

The office of Sheriff of Seneca county, has been held by residents of the town, in the persons of Nathaniel N. Hayt, Hugh Chapman and C. H. Swarthout.

Our presiding officer to day, Mr. E. Seely Bartlett, has recently closed a term of three years, in the important and responsible position of County School Commissioner.

The office of County Clerk, has been held by Alvah Gregory, of Lancaster, by appointment, from April 1813 to Feby. 1815, and has been filled by election for full terms by Dr. Mather Marvin of Romulus and Varick, and by Daniel H. Bryant and Calvin Willers, both of Varick.

Among a number of the sons of Romulus, who have elsewhere arisen to prominence, either in public or business life, a few may be mentioned.

Silas M. Burroughs, born July, 1810, in this town, (a son of David Burroughs, an early resident here, and afterwards a resident of Orleans county, in this State), served that county as Member of Assembly in 1837, 1850, 1851, and 1853, and Representative in the 35th Congress of the United States, 1857 to 1859, and was re-elected to the 36th Congress, but died June 3, 1860, during the first year of that term.

David Burroughs removed to the town of Shelby, then Genesee, now Orleans county, in 1818, where he died in 1822, aged 45 years. In 1821 he was elected to and served as a delegate in the State Constitutional Convention, for Genesee county.

Jephth H. Wade, was born on Military Lot No. 50, in Romulus, (now in Varick), August 11, 1811, a son of Jephth Wade, an early resident and a surveyor. After an active and diversified experience in business life, he became president of the Western Union Telegraph company, a director of several banks and railroad companies, and one of the foremost and most wealthy citizens of Cleveland, Ohio, where he also was prominently identified with measures tending to elevate the schools and promote

the best interests of that city. He was not ambitious for public life, although at one time, his name was mentioned in connection with the nomination for Governor of Ohio. He died a few years ago.

Peter A. Dey, son of Anthony Dey, a former supervisor of Romulus, and first supervisor of Varick, was born at Dey's Corner's near Seneca lake, January 27, 1825. He graduated at Hobart College, Geneva, N. Y., in 1844, just fifty years ago, and fitted himself for the profession of civil engineering, in which he became eminent, and having located in the State of Iowa, he was appointed chief engineer of the Union Pacific railroad during its construction. He was selected by the Legislature of Iowa, as one of the new Capitol commissioners and afterwards elected as a Railroad commissioner of that State, which position he now holds—having served his adopted State with zeal and fidelity.

Reuben C. Lemmon, (son of Charles Lemmon, an early settler, who served as supervisor of Varick in the years 1834, 1835 and 1836, and as magistrate for many years) was born on Military Lot Number 52, in that portion of Romulus, now in Varick, in May, 1825. Mr. Lemmon was educated to the legal profession, and removing to Toledo, Ohio, was elected Judge of the Court of Common Pleas for the fourth district of Ohio, a position (of extensive jurisdiction and powers), which he has held for three full terms, of five years each, and is now approaching the close of his fourth term. A few years ago, Judge Lemmon was elected and served as Grand Master of the Order of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio, and enjoys in an eminent degree the confidence and esteem of his fellow citizens, by whom he has been thus repeatedly honored.

James Van Vleet, son of Jared Van Vleet, was born in Romulus, in 1819. Removing to Michigan in early manhood, he was chosen county treasurer of Genesee county, and elected a Member of the Legislature of that State. He is still living, a respected resident of the city of Flint, Michigan.

John W. McMath, a grandson of Alla, and son of Col. Samuel, and Mary Fleming McMath, was born in Romulus, June 3,

1824. He removed with his parents to Michigan in 1827, graduated at the University of Michigan, in 1850, studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1852. He has served in the position of prosecuting attorney and United States collector of customs at Mackinaw, and judge of probate, and city attorney of Bay City, Michigan. Judge McMath is still living in that city, and sends cordial greetings to the Romulus centennial.

A record of the family of Col. Samuel McMath, shows that of his nine children, one became a lawyer, Judge John W.; and one a clergyman, Rev. Robert McMath; the others, becoming respected citizens in their western homes. Four of the grand-sons of Col. McMath, still living, have been admitted to the bar, and are now engaged in successful law practice in Western states.

Robert E. McMath, son of Alla McMath, (the latter a grand-son of the early settler, Alla McMath of Romulus), was born in Varick, April 28, 1833. He graduated at Williams College, Massachusetts, in 1857, and locating at St. Louis, Missouri, chose civil engineering as a profession, in which he attained a prominent rank—serving upon the United States Coast Survey and the Government work of improving the Mississippi River. In April, 1893, he was elected President of the Board of Public Improvements of the city of St. Louis, which position he now holds.

Walter S. Gurnee, born in Rockland county, N. Y., removed in his youth, with his widowed mother, (a sister of Judge John D. Coe), to the town of Romulus. In early manhood, he removed to Chicago, Illinois, and engaged there in active business pursuits. He was elected Mayor of Chicago, in March, 1851, and held that responsible position for a term of two years. He is still living at an advanced age, in the city of New York.

Many of the sons of Romulus and Varick have been educated to the learned professions. Had it been possible to present a list of all the lawyers, clergymen, physicians and teachers in the higher educational institutions, who were born in these towns since the first settlement, or have resided therein, including those deceased, it would have been indeed interesting, but data at hand is insufficient to make up the same.



The first permanently located physician in the town, was undoubtedly Dr. Ethan Watson, at Plymouth in 1807, who afterwards, about 1820, removed to Romulus Village. Other early physicians were Dr. Mather Marvin, Dr. Philip Dey, and Dr. Tompkins C. Delevan. The first clergymen who located in this town, were the early pastors at the Baptist and Presbyterian churches.

At the present time, fifteen attorneys at law, are known to be living, who were born in Romulus or Varick, headed by Judge R. C. Lemmon, of Ohio, and the venerable Edward B. Miller, now living among us.

In a literary and educational career, the sons of those towns are well represented. Headed by the names of President Wm. W. Folwell, of the State University, Minneapolis, Prof. Isaac. P. Roberts, of Cornell University, Ithaca, and Prof. Carlton M. Ritter, of State Normal School, Chico, California, we have now the names of ten professors in colleges and high schools, who were reared in our midst.

Among the clergy, headed with the name of the venerable Rev. Charles C. Carr, of Horseheads, (who has served 54 years in the ministry), we have now the names of sixteen former residents of our locality.

The medical profession, too, is well represented, by fourteen former residents, now living, the most aged of whom, is the eminent physician, Dr. Cornelius C. Wyckoff, of Buffalo, N. Y.

I will not forget, here to mention among the sons of Romulus who have risen to conspicuous positions—Col. James P. Sanford, now of Wheaton, Illinois, born Nov. 11, 1837, on the north part of the Barna Swarthout farm, on Lot 94, (now a part of the State Hospital property) in Romulus, whose eminence as a traveler and as an eloquent and entertaining lecturer, is known and recognized in all parts of the Union, and who is here, as Orator of the day, upon this occasion. His volume of "Letters of Travel from different Lands," was published in 1887.

Nothing speaks better for the people of a community than to have the reputation of being good patrons of churches and public

schools. The pioneers of Romulus gave early attention to religious observances and the building up of churches. It was not an unusual thing, for our early settlers to bring their families to church, in wagons or sleds drawn by oxen, while young people often came long distances on foot, carrying their only pair of Sunday shoes, and putting on the same, before entering the place of worship.

The official organization of the Romulus Baptist church dates back to 1795, and will next year have reached a full century of organized existence. This religious Society, the oldest in Seneca county, had its first church edifice commenced in 1808, during the ministry of Rev. John Caton, a revolutionary patriot, who was met and recognized by General La Fayette, upon the occasion of his visit to this county, in June, 1825. It has sent out a number of clergymen and men honored in all the walks of life. Rev. Dr. Lewis Halsey in his History of the Seneca Baptist Association, has devoted an interesting chapter to the history of this church.

The present official organization of the Romulus Presbyterian church, dates back to 1802, and its first church was completed in 1809, when Rev. Chas. Mosher was its pastor. As early as 1795, a number of Presbyterians of this locality, were visited by missionaries and a partial organization was effected, which, however, was not completed. The present capacious church was dedicated in 1838. The records of the church, contains the names of many of the pioneers and leading citizens of Romulus. It has sent out into the ministry, a number of its young men, and its membership is represented in many States of the union. It has been remarkable for long pastorates, that of Rev. Morris Barton, of twenty years, and of the present incumbent, Rev. J. W. Jacks, already twenty-two years.

At the village of Bearytown, on the line of Varick and Fayette, an early religious society of Pennsylvania German people, many of whom were residents of Romulus, was organized in 1809, although served by pastors occasionally, as early as 1803. The first log church was completed soon after its organization, and the

services therein were then and for many years thereafter, held in the German language and a German day school was taught by Wm. Merkel and others, in connection therewith. There are still living, a number of persons who received German instruction at this School, and the early records of this Church, in the German language, have been carefully preserved. The present substantial stone structure of the Reformed church succeeded the log church, in 1824. One of the pastors of this church, Rev. Dr. Diedrich Willers, a resident of Varick, served this church from April, 1821, to January 1882, a period of over sixty years. (See also appendix F).

The official organization of the Methodist Episcopal church at McDuffectown, bears date December 5, 1816, although services had been held in the neighborhood, in the schoolhouse and dwellings of members, as far back as 1810. The first church edifice was completed in 1832 and the present church edifice in 1883. This church, has also sent into the ministry, several of its members.

There are at the present time in the territory of Romulus and Varick, in addition to the early churches named, one additional Methodist Episcopal church (at Bearytown), four Protestant Episcopal churches, one Wesleyan Methodist, (Varick,) and one Roman Catholic church, all erected in the past fifty years. Sunday schools have been established in connection with the several churches, and at a number of school houses. There are persons yet living, who remember hearing the zealous and somewhat eccentric Lorenzo Dow preach, in a grove in this town, nearly seventy-five years ago.

In the early history of this State but little was accomplished in the way of organizing a uniform common school system until the year 1812. Prior to that time, schools were principally select or private schools, supported by specific amount per scholar, per quarter, or by rate bill, in proportion to the number of days attendance of each scholar. As early as 1789, provision had been made by the Legislature, for setting apart one lot of 600 acres of land, in each of the townships of the Military Tract, for the support of gospel and schools and one further lot of equal acreage in aid of literature. The supervisors of the county of Onondaga, Sept. 28, 1796,

set apart Lot 50, Romulus, for gospel and schools and lot 55 for literature. Both of these lots are situated on Seneca lake, adjoining each other, in the present town of Varick, and some of the early settlements, were made on the same. The literature lot fell to Union College, Schenectady, and was subdivided by Hon Joseph Annin and contracted to Frederick Kistler, Jacob Lowdon, and five others, May 14, 1804, and deeded in 1809 and 1811. The gospel and school lot was surveyed and subdivided into four farms in 1817, by John D. Coe, and deeded June 16, 1817, by Trustees of Gospel and School Lot—the annual income therefrom, having in previous years, been applied very generally, in aid of schools. The avails from the sale of this lot, were originally apportioned between Romulus and Fayette, but upon the organization of Varick the portion of the first named town was divided and \$2,842.81 of principal was allotted to Varick, the principal of the Romulus school fund, after such division, being \$3 521.13.

Information at hand as to early schools and teachers is meagre and unsatisfactory. In the early history of the town and prior to 1800, very few school houses had been erected in the territory which now has twenty school houses—and private and select schools were frequently kept at the house of the teacher or of one of the patrons of the school.

A History of Seneca county, published by Everts, Ensign and Everts, Philadelphia, Pa., 1876, is authority for the statement, that there was on the tenth day of June, 1799, a school house standing, one mile northeast of Lancaster, probably in the Sutton neighborhood. In the same year, 1799, there was a school house standing, east of Mahlon Bainbridge's near the residence of Dr. N. W. Folwell. Other school houses erected at an early date, were a log school building at Romulus Village in 1806; and one on Lot seventy-eight near John Marsh's. In 1810 there was a school house near Henry Miller's, North East of Hayt's Corners one at Beachtown, settlement near Dey's Landing; and one at McDuffeetown. Others of early date, were the school houses in the McLaferty District, near the center of the present town of Romulus; also one at Lancaster; one near Anthony Dey's Tannery; and one a half mile east of Judge Benj. Lemmon's; with one near John

Gambée's Mill Pond, one and a half miles South East of Bearytown; and one near Clarktown.

Spafford's Gazetteer, mentions ten school houses in Romulus in 1812. In February, 1820, John D. Coe, Anthony Dey, and John Fleming, commissioners, filed with the Town Clerk, descriptions of seventeen school districts, and there were parts of several other joint school districts, the school houses of which were located in other towns. A part of Romulus was annexed to the Ovid Union School District in 1874, and there are now twenty school houses in the towns of Romulus and Varick.

Prior to the year 1800, a select school was kept in the weaving shop of Haynes Bartlett, taught by John Bainbridge. Early schools were also taught at James McKnight's and John Sayre's residences. Dr. Ethan Watson and his wife, who settled at Apple-town in 1807, both taught school soon after their settlement. There were doubtless other early schools and school houses at which teachers were employed, of which no reliable information can now be secured. Early teachers, other than those already named, were Robert Selfredge, Ebenezer Brewster, Elijah Miller, Sylvester Tillotson, Ira Parker, Clinton Shattuck and R. Webster. Later on, Wareham Barnes, Levi Hart, Samuel Jones, John A. Christopher, Joseph Burroughs, Aaron P. Roberts, Norman Eddy, Jonathan Ogden, Lewis Woodruff, Jacob P. Chamberlain, Aaron B. Bartlett and William Mann were well known teachers, and forty to sixty years ago, members of the Baldrige and Fleming families, James Facer, Leander Covert, John B. Robinson, Palmer McDuffee, William Bainbridge, Augustus C. Miller, Amos P. Miller, John R. Stone, Wm. H. Sutton, Henry C. Lisk, Darwin C. Smalley, Dr. Richard Dey, Loring G. King, Ralph P. Roberts and John Monroe, were engaged in teaching, some of whom are still living. At an early date, female teachers were but little employed, except to teach summer terms of schools. Among those who taught may be mentioned, Mrs. Ethan Watson, Miss Czarina Young, Mary Sutton, Hannah Pratt, Catharine Folwell, Emeline Betts, Clarissa A. Gambée, Catharine Gambée, Mary J. McKnight, and Mary J. Barnes.

In passing, a tribute must also be bestowed, upon a faithful and

thoroughly competent teacher, in the person of the late William Ross, who died April 6, 1893, in Fayette, aged ninety years, who had devoted about sixty-five years of his life to teaching, chiefly in the public schools of this county, including a number of terms in Romulus, a record which can probably not be excelled in any other part of the State.

Many of our public men, have in youth and early manhood taught in public schools, as an assistance in obtaining a professional and business education, a few of whom may be mentioned.

Elijah Miller, (son of Captain Josiah Miller, a patriot officer of the revolutionary war), was born at Bedford, Westchester county, N. Y., April 11, 1772. In the spring of 1796, he came to the town of Romulus and located upon Military Lot number ninety-one, (near Hayt's Corners). While residing there, he engaged in teaching school for a time and began reading law under Daniel Shepard of Aurora, on the opposite shore of Cayuga Lake. In March, 1799, he was commissioned a Justice of the Peace for the Town of Romulus, then in Cayuga county. In January 1800, having been admitted to the Bar, he married and located on the East side of Cayuga Lake, at Cayuga Village, then one of the county seats of Cayuga County, where he engaged in the practice of his profession, removing to Auburn in 1808. In 1813 he was appointed Clerk of Cayuga County, for a term of two years, and in 1817, received the appointment of County Judge of that County, which position he held for six years. In 1823, William H. Seward, (afterwards Governor and United States Senator) then just commencing his legal career, united with Judge Miller in a law partnership, and a year later married his daughter. This law firm at once took a leading position and was employed in many of the most important cases tried in Central New York. Judge Miller died at Auburn in November, 1851, in the eightieth year of his age. Captain Josiah Miller, father of Judge Elijah Miller, removed early in this century, with his family, to the Lot located by his son in the town of Romulus, where he died in 1817, aged 68 years. One of his sons, Ezra Miller, served as a magistrate of Romulus for many years.

Jacob P. Chamberlain, born in Worcester County, Massachu-

setts, August 1st, 1802, became an early resident of this town, and engaged for a time in teaching in our public schools. He was elected the first Town Clerk of Varick, upon the organization of that town in 1830, and was re-elected in the two succeeding years. He also served as School Inspector of that town. He afterwards removed to Seneca Falls, and engaged in farming, milling and manufacturing business. He was elected to serve this County in the State Legislature for the year 1859, and was chosen to the thirty-seventh Congress of the United States 1861-63, for the 26th District. He died at Seneca Falls, Oct. 5, 1878. Frank Chamberlain, a son of Hon. Jacob P., born in Romulus, Dec. 4, 1826, and now residing at Albany, N. Y., was in 1860 elected Grand Commander of the State Commandery of Knights Templar of the Masonic order, and was appointed April 27, 1865, by the Governor with the consent of the Senate, Commissary General of this State. Eugene T. Chamberlain, of Albany, son of General Frank, now holds the office of Commissioner of Navigation in the Treasury Department at Washington, D. C.

Mention may be made also in this connection, of Norman Eddy, a native of Cayuga County, N. Y., who taught for a time in the public schools of Romulus and Varick, about 65 years ago, and who afterwards graduated as a physician, practised medicine for a time, then read law, was admitted to the Bar, and became eminent as a lawyer. Removing to Indiana, he was elected to the State Senate, then to the 33d Congress of the United States, and in later years, Secretary of State of that State, which position he held at the time of his death, January 28, 1872.

It is not my purpose to comment at length upon the primitive log school houses, with their slab seats without backs, nor to speak of teachers of the olden time, when the system of "boarding around" of teachers prevailed and every patron was expected to contribute a supply of wood proportional to the number of scholars sent. (See Appendix D.)

The records of one of the old school districts, recently examined, shows that at the annual school meetings seventy years ago, the inhabitants were accustomed at each meeting, to adopt

a resolution, exempting poor persons having children to send to school, from the payment of a rate bill for teachers wages, and the same commendable spirit was doubtless very generally shown throughout the town.

While much has been accomplished in the improvement and elevation of public schools, we should not forget the day of small things, nor fail to do justice to the time, when the three Rs (Reading, 'Riting and 'Rithmetic) were the leading branches of study, in our schools. Many of our best business men, enjoyed no other opportunities of education than those which these early schools provided. The old-time text books used in this locality, were Webster's and Cobb's Spelling books; the Old and New English Readers, the American Preceptor and Hale's History of the United States, used as a reading book; Emerson's, Ostrander's or Daboll's Arithmetics, while writing was taught by the teacher, in copy books made of foolscap paper. The use of Murray's or Kirkham's Grammars, and Morse's, Goodrich's and Olney's Geographies, were higher accessories of a school course, not always reached by the pupils in our schools. Scholars when old enough to work, seldom had time to attend school in summer, leaving only a few months of winter schooling, which the older boys were not always privileged to enjoy. It is a matter of deep regret, that residents in the several school districts, have allowed district libraries to fall behind, and a revival of interest, is now in progress, in reference to the same.

There is no large village in our territory, the town being a distinctively agricultural town, and no Institution for academic education exists therein. Many sons and daughters of Romulus, have, however, received a liberal education at the Ovid Academy, now a High School, with which a portion of this town has official relations.

One of the most pleasing features of our centennial observance this day, is the large representation of scholars from the public schools, forming a leading part in the procession. The occasion and the exercises of the day, may, and doubtless will, be long remembered by them.



It is a pleasure to allude here to the organization of one of the earliest public library societies in this county, as the records of the county clerk show, to wit :

"At a meeting held on the 12th instant, March, 1805, at the house of Asa Smith, innkeeper in Romulus, for the purpose of forming themselves into a corporation for establishing a public library, proceeded to order, when Mahlon Bainbridge was chosen chairman. By ballot then proceeded to elect five trustees to govern library, when the following persons were elected, viz : Andrew Dunnett, Charles Gordon, Asa Smith, Mahlon Bainbridge, and Samuel Howe.

Resolved, further, that the name or title of this corporation shall be known as Seneca Library Number One. It was further unanimously agreed and voted, that the same library be kept in the village of Lancaster, in the town of Romulus."

The martial spirit of the revolutionary sires who settled in our midst and their descendants, was kept alive through local militia organizations, (the 102d and 128th militia regiments,) and the town of Romulus was largely represented in the military ranks in the war of 1812. Col. Daniel Sayre, Col. Samuel McMath, Col. Samuel Blain and Col. Matthew D. Coe in earlier years, with Col. and Gen. Thomas J. Folwell and Col. and Gen. Augustus Decatur Ayres, in later years, commanded the militia of this and other towns. Company and regimental "trainings" of the militia were annually held, at McKnight's, Asa Smith's, David Depue's, Romulus village, Lerch's, Lemmon's or Bearytown, with occasionally a "general training" which were events anxiously looked forward to. At the present time, there are no military organizations in town, although strongly represented in the ranks of the army, in the late civil war, 1861-65.

The records of the town show activity in the early years of its existence, in the laying out of public roads. Already in June 1795, a public road four rods wide, was laid out from the north bounds of Ovid, from Lancaster, along and near the Seneca lake shore to the Seneca outlet and to the east bounds of Ontario county. The description of this road as recorded, makes reference to an old

road previously laid out by the Highway commissioners of the town of Peru, from James McKnight's north to the Ontario county line. The town of Peru was formed April 10, 1792, from the town of Whitestown, which latter town, at that time, covered all of Central New York, from its East line near Utica, extending westward to Seneca lake. It is to be regretted, that the records of the town of Peru, can not upon diligent inquiry be found, the town having been abolished, when Onondaga county was erected in March, 1794.

Other public roads early laid out were from Appletown to David Depue's, also from Lancaster to Boardmansburg, and a road from David Depew's to the Hood Settlement on Lot Number 48, at Fayette line. The road on the South line of the Cayuga Reservation, was laid out in the year 1805. The well known highway called the "Reservation road," the West line of the Cayuga Indian Reservation, leading across Varick to Seneca Falls, was recorded Dec. 17, 1806, and was surveyed by Jephtha Wade.

The Legislature of 1793, chapter 37, appointed John L. Hardenbergh, Moses DeWitt and John Patterson, commissioners for laying out certain public roads in the Military tract, one of which was to commence on the West side of Cayuga Lake, opposite a point mentioned (between Lots Numbers 56 and 67, Scipio), nearly three miles South of Aurora, and to run by as direct a route as the nature of the ground will admit of, to Seneca Lake, at or near the division line between Romulus and Ovid, (at Lancaster). The Legislature made a small appropriation to pay the expense of making such public road, but whether it was ever laid out, cannot be ascertained, and certainly no such road was ever maintained, as a State road.

In the laying out of town roads, and the surveying and division of farms, there was much occasion to employ the service of a competent surveyor, as is usually the case in a newly settled country. Among the well known early surveyors of Romulus, may be mentioned, Benjamin Dey, William Seely, Jephtha Wade, David Harris, John D. Cœ, and Orange Wilkinson, and in later years, Gen. A. D. Ayres.

Already before the commencement of the present century, in 1798, Captain Abel Frisbie, established regular communication with Aurora, and the east side of Cayuga Lake, for transporting by row boat or other primitive craft, passengers and mails, which ferry was continued for some time by others, from points called Hayes' Harbor and Smith's or Sinclair's landings. Levanna, and for a time Aurora, were county seats of Onondaga or Cayuga County, and residents of Romulus were sometimes called upon to visit these localities, upon public business.

Later on, in 1828, a ferry for passengers, teams, and freight was established for a time, between Levanna and Clarktown on the west shore.

The steamer Enterprise began to make trips upon Cayuga Lake from Ithaca to Bridgeport, at the foot of the lake, as early as 1820, but seldom landed on the west side of the lake, in this town.

A ferry was chartered to run from Lancaster across Seneca Lake to Dresden, in 1825. The steamer Seneca Chief, Capt. E. Miner, began its regular trips upon Seneca Lake, July 4, 1828, landing at Lancaster, and later on at Dey's Landing also. Steamers upon both the lakes, carried passengers, freights and mails.

Landings or warehouses established on Seneca Lake, were those at Lancaster, Freleighs, (Plymouth), Cooley's, (now C. C. Pontius') and Dey's Landing, and a Landing known as Glen Gowan, was established on the farm of Andrew S. Long, about ten years ago.

Upon Cayuga Lake, landings or warehouses, were at different times established, one in the South East Corner of town, known as Porter's Landing, also at Whitney's, later Jacacks' Landing, one at Andrew Smith's, later Sinclair's, and those at East Varick and Clarktown.

At the warehouses mentioned, grain was purchased in large quantities, loaded upon boats and shipped to Eastern cities, after the opening of the State Canals.

The Ithaca and Geneva Turnpike company was incorporated in 1810, and there was a mail service, commencing about that time, by stage from Geneva to Judge Sayre's, and Lancaster or

Ovid, and thence southward. The existence of this Turnpike Company was brief, and before the full completion of the Turnpike, its charter was repealed by the Legislature in 1823.

After the abolition of the post office at Lancaster and the removal of Romulus post office to the village of the same name, a daily inland mail service by stage, was established from Geneva to Ithaca, passing through Romulus Village, which route was abolished upon the opening of the Geneva, Ithaca and Sayre railroad, in the fall of 1873.

With the opening of public roads and lines of travel, taverns or public inns to accommodate travel by land, were established in abundance.

Among the early hostelries of Romulus, may be mentioned those of James McKnight, John Sayre and David Depue, at each of which, town meetings were held, and those of Asa Smith, at Appletown, Capt. Abel Frisbie, at Cayuga lake opposite Aurora, Samuel Smith at Lancaster, H. M. Schooley at Hayts Corners, and George Alexander at Romulus Village. Other well known hotels were those of Samuel McMath, Haynes Bartlett, David Brooks, and Stephen Reeder, along Seneca Lake, and in the north half or Varick part of the town, those of Benjamin Lemmon, and John Y. Manning, of Hezekiah Knowles, (Dey's Landing), John Boice, Skillman Doughty, and David Edwards, at and near Romulus Village, Joseph Haynes, and Geo. Crobaugh, at Bearytown, Samuel Lerch, on Military Lot, Number 54, of James Reifsnider, at Clarktown, and Thomas Caton, the last named known as the "Log Tavern" on Military Lot Number 47.

It was not until Sept. 1873, that the first railway across the town, the line of the Geneva, Ithaca and Sayre railroad, was opened to the public, and a branch railroad from Hayt's Corners to Willard, was opened in May, 1883. A new through line of the Lehigh Valley Railway Co. from Buffalo to New York City, was opened across the town in September 1892, and all of the above named railroads, are now operated by said last named company.

Telegraph lines were also opened and operated in connection

with all of said lines of railroad, and express offices were established at the several railway stations.

It has already been shown that the people of Romulus were jealously watchful of questions affecting taxation.

The Board of Supervisors of Onondaga county, in 1795 already, of which board, Benajah Boardman was then a member, recommended and adopted a new system of taxation for the towns of said county, as follows :

*"Whereas*, the Supervisors of Onondaga County, have found many inconveniences by the various modes taken in the different towns in assessing the ratable property in the county, have thought it a duty to recommend to the assessors of each respective town, next to be chosen, in said towns, a mode of taking the valuation of property which appears to us the most eligible in our local situation, desiring this to be publicly read at the next annual town meeting, which uniform mode will render the next Board of Supervisors, our successors in office, more capable of doing justice, in levying taxes in our infant State, viz : Estimate as follows :

Improved lands of a medium quality, 20 shillings per acre.  
 Working oxen of a medium quality, 16 pounds per yoke.  
 Cows of a medium quality, 5 pounds per piece.  
 Young cattle of three years old and under, 20 shillings per year.  
 Horses of a medium quality, 10 pound per piece.  
 Colts, three years old and under, 40 shillings per year.  
 Hogs that will weigh 100 weight, 20 shillings per piece.  
 Negro men, 50 pounds per head.  
 Negro wenches, 30 pounds per head.  
 Grist mills, 50 pounds per piece.  
 Saw mills, 30 pounds per piece.

And those articles of an inferior or superior quality, in proportion, and other ratable property in like proportion.

The board further recommends to the consideration of the different towns, the following mode in taking the assessment, viz : That each person holding ratable property shall give in to the assessor a list of his or her ratable property or estate, in writing, agreeable to the request of the assessor, which will be an a voucher for the assessor, and prevent any aspersions of injustice of being taxed unequally, by those having that part of duty to do, in society.

The board also recommends to assessors, that they completely make out their list of assessment by the first of May as the law directs, so that the Supervisors may be enabled to proceed on their business at their first meeting and save the county costs.

Reference to the assessment and taxation of slaves, recalls the fact, that Wm. Seely of the town of Romulus on Nov. 17, 1794, manumitted a slave of the name of Charles Patterson. The General act of the Legislature abolishing Negro Slavery in this State, passed in 1817, took effect July 4, 1827.

As late as May 1811, a public notice was filed with the Town

Clerk, by Peter Huff, of the birth of two negro slaves belonging to him.

It is interesting to trace the history of the early villages of the Town, some of which are now extinct.

“Time rolls his ceaseless course. The race of yore  
Who danced our infancy upon their knee,  
And told our marvelling boyhood legends store  
Of their strange ventures happ’d on land and sea,  
How are they blotted from the things that be !”

Reference has been already made to the village of Lancaster, (at or near which the earliest settlements in town were made) afterwards for a time called Baileytown, then Ovid Landing, and now Willard. Records in the County Clerk’s Office, refer to a plot and map of Lancaster, divided into lots, already in 1798, by George and Samuel Bailey.

As early as January 1, 1804, Lancaster Post Office was established, with Charles Gordon as Postmaster.

In 1804-5, Lancaster was an unsuccessful applicant for the location of the County buildings, and was then the most promising village of the County. It is known that the first stores and some of the first places of business in the town of Romulus, were opened at Lancaster, several years prior to any established at Romulus village or at Hayts Corners. Spafford’s Gazetteer of New York, published in 1813, describes Lancaster as having about twenty houses, while Ovid, is described as a village in anticipation. For a time, a ferry was in operation from Lancaster to Dresden, on the west side of the lake.

The Post Office at Lancaster was abolished in November 1814, and the village fell into decline.

With the opening, in 1869, of Willard State Hospital for the Insane, at the locality formerly known as Lancaster, the village at that point, (now known as Willard), revived, and a Post Office of that name, was established there, March 29, 1871, with George Swarthout, a descendant of one of the earliest settlers, as Postmaster.

The Administration Building and a considerable part of the

other buildings, lands and property of the State Hospital are situated at Willard, in the town of Romulus, and a brief reference should be made to this worthy charity, the largest institution for the care of the insane, in this State, and one of the largest in the United States. It has ample capacity for the treatment of 2,100 patients, although the average number of patients under treatment during the past year reached 2,140. The management of this model institution, is in charge of an efficient Board of Trustees, Hon. Sterling G. Hadley, President, with a Medical Superintendent, Dr. T. H. Kellogg, and a corps of assistants and officers.

Another village, the oldest one known in the history of the town, the Indian village of Kendala, (called also Appletown) of which mention has been made, ceased to have an existence, since its destruction by General Sullivan's army. Elkanah Watson a native of Plymouth, Mass., of whom mention has been made as a visitor in Sept. 1791, was the owner of lands at Appletown, extending to Seneca Lake, and in the latter years of the last century, a village was plotted and located upon the shore of Seneca Lake, one-half mile west of Appletown, and named Plymouth. Upon the map of this village, 155 village lots were delineated, with streets running East from the lake, crossed by others running North and South, to which names were given on the map. Of the village of Plymouth, too, not a vestige remains.

The Indian village of Swah-ya-wa-nah, on Cayuga Lake, nearly opposite Aurora, was totally destroyed by Col. Henry Dearborn's detachment from General Sullivan's army, as already mentioned.

A hamlet on Military Lots 71 and 78, on Cayuga Lake, with store, mills, distillery, tavern, (Capt. Frisbie's), and boat landing, has entirely disappeared.

Another village mapped and laid out, in the first quarter of this century, on Cayuga Lake, locally known as Clarktown, (opposite to Levanna, with which it had ferry communication) with its warehouse, store, tavern, pottery, etc., is now entirely extinct.

As early as 1819, there was a store kept, and several years

previously a public inn, at the place locally known as Lemmon's Corners on Military Lot 52. North Romulus Post Office established at this point, with Judge Benjamin Lemmon as Postmaster, was afterwards removed to West Fayette. The first town meeting held in the town of Varick, April 6, 1830, was held at the public house of Benjamin Lemmon at that place, which inn was subsequently for a time also kept by Col. John V. Manning, (and sometimes called Manning's Hill). This little hamlet has also ceased to exist.

As indicating changes in population, it may be mentioned, that the little hamlet of McDuffeetown, on Reservation Lot 77, dating back about eighty-five years, the inhabitants in and near which, were once nearly all persons of the name McDuffee, now contains only one family of that name, and no person of the name Dey, now lives at Dey's Landing, a hamlet on Seneca Lake at the southwest corner of Varick.

Other villages of the town of Romulus, which now have existence, although none of them incorporated, are Romulus village, partly in Varick, Hayt's Corners, and Kendaia in Romulus, and East Varick and a part of Bearytown, in the town of Varick. It is with difficulty, that precise information can now be collected relating to the same.

Romulus village, dates back to the early years of this century, and in 1800 a log school house had been erected near the present village. The Presbyterian church, organized in 1802, and its church edifice, a little west of the village, completed in 1809, was followed by a store, ashery and other places of business, and soon after by a public inn. A bank, known as the Farmers Bank of Seneca County, was organized May 15, 1839, and opened for business with the State, July 6, of the same year,—the existence of which terminated, by action of the courts, in less than two years. The village early became and continued to be, the center of business for the town, up to the division in 1830. The opening of the Geneva, Ithaca & Sayre Railroad, with a railway station, gave a new impetus to the village, which has gradually increased in population and importance. Romulus post office,



established in 1802, on the Seneca Lake post office removed to this village and Wm. McCarty appointed as postmaster, Nov. 1, 1825.

Hayt's Corners, takes its name from the Hayt family, who were early settlers there in 1800. The first store was opened in 1816 and the first tavern in 1820, and tradesmen of the various crafts and pursuits in business, followed. The growth of the village has been slow, but since the opening of the Geneva, Ithaca and Sayre railroad, and the branch line to Ovid and Willard, centering there, it has increased in business and population. Its postoffice was not established until after the establishment of the railway station and bears date Dec. 8, 1870, with George Merkel as its first postmaster.

It was a thoughtful and commendable act on the part of the people of the locality, who named the little village of Kendaia, in honor of the extinct Indian village, once situated two miles southward. Kendaia is of comparatively modern growth, the establishment of its postoffice dating back to April 17, 1821, under the person Amos Crane, now again holding the office of postmaster. There were, however, places of business there at an earlier date, in fact the first grist mill in the town had been erected by Francis Albright near there, in 1770, and was completed soon afterwards. Since the opening of the new direct line of the Lehigh Valley railroad, about two years ago, with a railway station there, it has enjoyed some increase in business and population. It is now the only railroad station on this line of railway, in the town.

Of Bearytown, where the first building in Varick, was erected as a public inn by Joseph Haynes, early in this century, it can also be said, that the first church edifice, German, was erected there upon the organization of the church in 1810, and its cemetery was then also opened. In connection with the church a German school was early established. A tavern was erected by Henry Beary, from whom the village is named, in 1810, and the first store kept there, in by Charles L. Hoskins, still living at Seneca Falls at the advanced age of 95 years, in 1820. It is a quiet pleasant little village, the greater part of which is located in Fayette and lacks railroad communication to give an impetus to its business interests.

Fayette post office, located there, was established Aug. 25, 1826.

East Varick on Cayuga lake, a mile east of McDuffietown, dates back its starting point, about forty-five years. At one time it was a bustling little village, having a store, warehouse, hotel and other places of business, and had considerable lake traffic, but the opening of railways, and the loss of steamboat connections, has injured its business prosperity of late years. Its post office was established July 5, 1850, with Benjamin Barrick as its first Post Master.

The earliest settlers, found it necessary in the absence of any grist mills, for grinding flour, to resort to the stump mortar and hominy block for pounding the same. The grist mill early erected on the west side of Seneca lake, near Dresden, Benajah Boardman's mill, west of Ovid village, with Major Bear's mill at Skoyasc, and Judge Halsey's mill at Lodi, were but little in advance in time of erection, of the mill constructed by Francis Albright near Kendaia, in 1796, and afterwards run by Michael Baldridge. Other early grist mills were those of Benjamin Dey's; Capt. Andrew Smith's, afterwards John Sinclair's; Benjamin Sutton's. Wm. Chamberlain's, and one, two miles east of Romulus village, run by Silas Allen and others, and there were several others which had a brief existence.

Early stores as already mentioned, were kept at the villages of Lancaster, Romulus, Hayt's Corners, and other villages and hamlets named herein. There were also stores kept in the early days of the town, by John Sayre and John Bainbridge, by Zebedee Williams, by Stephen R. Miller, by David Harris, at Schuyler's Point, north of Clarktown, one at Cooley's Landing, and another at the Ashery Corners, one mile east of Romulus village.

Early auctioneers of real and personal property were John Williams, Thomas Mann and Haynes Bartlett, and later on Samuel Lerch and Bunn Brokaw.

Were the information at hand, and time permitted, it might be of interest, to give a complete list of all the sawmills, tanneries, and asheries, throughout the town, as well as to give the names of early shoemakers, tailors, carpenter, blacksmiths, coopers,

saddlers, &c, but any attempt to do so, from vague and indefinite data, at hand, is impracticable. Many of the earlier settlers had been instructed in mechanical trades in youth, and although here devoted to farming, they found abundant opportunity also to practice their handicrafts, as numerous blacksmith shops &c, in all parts of the town attested.

It is well in passing, to note the changes, as well as the advance and progress made in town, not only in population but also in material wealth and prosperity. Under the first Constitution of this State, adopted in 1777, and in force until 1822, the right of suffrage was restricted under property qualifications, to three classes of voters

The first class, which had the right to vote for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, State Senator, and all other elective officers, was required to possess a freehold of the value of one hundred pounds (\$250) over and above all debts charged therein.

The second class, embraced those who were possessed of a freehold within the county of the value of twenty pounds (\$50) and the third class, those not possessed of a freehold, but who rented tenements of the yearly value of forty shillings (\$5).

Voters of the second and third classes were authorized to vote for Members of Assembly and town officers.

County officers were first appointed by the Governor and Council of Appointment of the State, and in a few cases by Boards of Supervisors, and did not become elective by vote of the people until 1822. Justices of the Peace were not elected by the people until 1827, in which year, Mather Marvin, Samuel Blain, Stephen R. Miller and James Purdy, were chosen as the first elected Board of Justices of Romulus.

Early Justices of the Peace, appointed for the town of Romulus, March 14, 1799, while still a part of Cayuga County, were William Brewster, Benjamin Dey, Wilhelmus Mynderse, and Elijah Miller, and on Jan'y. 22, 1802, Isaac Johnson, John Sayre, John Hood and David Wisner were appointed.

Upon the erection of Seneca County in 1804, the names of John Sayre, Asa Smith and John Hood were included in the first list of Judges, and Justices commissioned for the new county.

Among other Magistrates (Justices of the Peace), of Romulus, appointed prior to 1810, were David Burroughs, Silas Allen and Alvah Gregory.

Commissioners to take the proof and acknowledgment of Deeds were appointed for the several towns under an act of 1818, by the Board of Supervisors and Court of Common Pleas. John D. Coe, Stephen R. Miller and Nathaniel N. Hayt, are known to have served among other Commissioners of Deeds for Romulus. In 1840, Justices of the Peace were empowered to take the acknowledgment of deeds, and the office of Commissioner of Deeds in towns was abolished.

State elections prior to 1822, were held on the last Tuesday of April. After that date, as now, in November, but up to 1842, were held for three successive days, at as many different places in each town, under the same Board of Election officers. Town meetings were for a long time held in this county, on the first Tuesday of April in each year, afterwards changed in 1849 for a time, to the second Tuesday of March, and of late years, since 1878, are held on the second Tuesday of February.

Enumerations of voters in this State, were ordered under acts of 1790 and 1795 (the latter, one year after the organization of this town) but no returns of these enumerations for this locality, have been found at the State Library at Albany, upon inquiry.

The enumeration of voters of this State, taken under an act of 1801, and made for this town, by John Sayre, bears date October 20, 1801. It includes one hundred and eighty names of voters of the first class, in the territory of Romulus and Varick, ninety-four of the second class and seventy-two of the third class. (See Census of Voters in Appendix E.)

Another enumeration of voters was made in 1807, by John Hood, David Burroughs and Robert Fleming, when three hundred and twenty voters were found, one hundred eighty-seven of the first class, seventeen of the second and one hundred and sixteen of the third class, showing that the number of voters had nearly doubled in the previous six years.

By the census of 1810, the number of families in the town as

then constituted, is given as four hundred and thirty-one, and of voters of the first class, one hundred and seventy-nine.

The United States census of 1800, the first taken after the organization of this town, gave its population as 1,025.

In 1810, the population which had nearly tripled during the decade, was 2,766. In 1820, it was 3,129.

By the State census of 1825, it was 4,127.

In 1830, after the erection of the town of Varick from Romulus, the population of each, was as follows :

Romulus, 2,089, and Varick, 1,890.

While there has since been some fluctuation in the population, there has been no material increase since 1830, except at Willard village, in Romulus, and by the last census of 1892, the population of this town, is given as 2,181.

The population of Varick has fallen off of late years, and by the last census, was only 1,379, showing the movement of population from rural towns to cities and villages.

By the census of 1810, some very interesting industrial statistics were collected, which are set out in Spafford's Gazetteer of the State of New York.

This authority assigns to the town of Romulus that year, one hundred and two mechanics, employed at eleven different trades. There were one hundred and thirteen weaving looms in families, producing in 1810—30,342 yards of cloth, and as truthfully remarked by the author—the household spinning wheel and loom, and the farm, (by flax culture and sheep raising) supply a large part of the clothing of the inhabitants.

In those days of household frugality, there was little occupation for milliners, and dressmakers. Tailors and shoemakers (when indeed such were employed) went about from house to house, and were occasionally employed in the family, the farmer furnishing the cloth of his own manufacture for the clothing, and leather made in tanneries within the town, for boots or shoes. At that time, jewelers, confectioners and like tradesmen, were but little patronized. In 1810, there were located in Romulus, three tanneries, five potash works, three grist mills, and seven saw-

mills—at the present time not a single ashery or tannery—and no grist mill, (since the unfortunate destruction of one recently by fire) with but one saw mill.

By the same census, there were six distilleries of grain and fruit spirits, which in that year, made 12,730 gallons, valued at \$7,956 or an average value of seventy-two cents per gallon. Now there is not a distillery of any kind in the town. The manufacture of maple sugar as an article of household use, an important industry in the early days, has been almost entirely discontinued, by the destruction of the forest, and the consequent scarcity of sugar maple trees.

The first thirty-five years of the official existence of Romulus were years of intense activity. The forests were largely cleared, orchards planted, churches and school houses reared, log houses gave place to comfortable frame or brick structures, and the people of the town advanced steadily, in material wealth and comfortable surroundings. The aggregate valuation of the town, in real and personal estate, had increased from \$137,173 in 1804, when the first Board of Supervisors of Seneca County met, to \$655,209 in 1829.

In 1830 the Legislature of the State again divided the town, and created a new town, embracing nearly one-half of the area of Romulus—and named the same in honor of the Revolutionary patriot and statesman, Col. Richard Varick, of whom, the people of the town receiving his name, may well say :

“We love the heroes of our land,  
Whose name shall live in story.  
The wise of heart, the strong of hand,  
Whose life and death is glory.”

The act dividing the town, Chapter 23, Laws of 1830, directs, that “from and after the first day of April of that year, Romulus shall be divided into two towns, by a line commencing at Cayuga Lake, on the south line of the late west Cayuga Reservation; thence west along the same to the south-west corner of said Reservation; thence north eight degrees, east five chains and twenty-five links, to the center of the highway running west through the farm of Jacob Vreeland, thirty-one chains; thence west on the

line between George Alexander and Albert Earll, thirty-three chains and ninety links to the east line of Military Lot 63; thence south two chains and thirty-three links to the south-east corner of Lot 63; thence west on the line of Military Lots 63, 68, 62, 67, 61 and 66, to the east line of Military Lot 64; thence north to the north-east corner thereof, and from thence west to Seneca Lake."

The same act directed, that the first town meeting thereafter be held in Varick at the house of Benjamin Lemmon, and in Romulus at the house of Ira Giddings.

The present area of Romulus, (since 1830), includes 22,500 acres of land, and that of Varick, 10,500 acres.

Since the division, the most cordial relations have continued between parent and child, and much business is still transacted in both towns, at this village, on the division line of the two towns, as in olden times. Neither of these towns embarked in railroad bonding and neither has a public debt. Although the labors of the husbandman are not now as remunerative as in earlier years, when greater economy was also practiced, and the new industries of the two towns, grape culture to the extent of fully 1,200 acres, and fruit raising, have not as yet brought profitable returns, all are still hopeful of brighter days to come. During the present year, two creameries have been established, which it is hoped, will bring favorable revenue to our farmers, for when the owner and tiller of the soil is well rewarded and prosperous, all classes and conditions profit by such success.

The farmers of the town, were from the first, vigilant in protecting their interests, as already shown.

At the town meeting held in April, 1810, it was "Resolved, that any man letting a Canada thistle go to seed on his farm, to be fined five dollars." This commendable action of the people, doubtless had a restrictive effect for a time, but unfortunately the Canada thistle came to stay, and is largely spread over the fair fields of the town.

Let it be hoped, that we may never have to contend with a European foe in the Russian thistle, for which like the Hessian fly, the Canada thistle and the Russian La Grippe, we can have no love whatever.

The changes and improvements in farming in the past one hundred years, covering the transition from the sickle to the self-binding reaper, also from the threshing flail to the steam thresher, have indeed been marvellous.

It is creditable to the farmers of Romulus to mention, that as early as the year 1842, a farmer's club had been established by voluntary membership and association, having among its members Hon. Peter J. Van Vleet, Hon. Helin Sutton, Gen. Thomas J. Folwell, Edward Sayre, Ebenezer S. and Benjamin Bartlett, and Joseph Wyckoff, with their wives, of whom only the first named and wife, now survive. This club held frequent meetings by alternation, at the homes of the respective members, to discuss the best methods of farming etc, and on the part of the lady members, to exchange practical views upon methods of house keeping. As can readily be understood, these meetings were as well instructive and profitable, as socially pleasant gatherings.

Kendaia Grange, Number 64, Patrons of Husbandry, an organization formed January 28, 1874, with Andrew J. Bartlett as Worthy Master, which has for its large membership, farmers with their wives, mothers, sons and daughters, has for twenty years past exerted its influence to instruct, improve and elevate the condition of the farmer, and to benefit the community as well.

Seneca County Pomona Grange, Patrons of Husbandry, with its membership of about one thousand, is to-day well represented here, forming one of the special features of the procession, and unites with us in honor of the occasion for which we have assembled, under the leadership of its chief officer, W. M. Andrew J. Bartlett of Romulus.

It would perhaps have been more satisfactory if we could have united with us to-day in commemorating this event, representatives from all the towns formed from the old original town of Romulus, especially of the neighboring town of Fayette, which with Seneca Falls, occupies a part of the territory of the military township of Romulus, but it was not deemed feasible to attempt so extensive a re-union at this time. It is however gratifying, to see many present here to-day from all parts of old Romulus.

We must leave it to the people of Fayette (the centennial of



the organization of which town will occur in the year 1900) to do honor to the pioneer settlers of the Military Township of Romulus (and upon the Cayuga Indian Reservation) within the boundaries of that town, and to worthily remember the labors of Dr. Alexander Coventry, John Runsey, William Gamber, James McClung, Maj. Samuel Bear, Martin Kendig, Israel Catlin, Vincent Runyan, Martin Hogan, Capt. Wm. Irland, and the Yost, Rorison, Bachman, Hendricks', Schott, Sweet, Peterson, Tooker and Van Riper, families with other pioneers of that locality, including many Pennsylvania German families, forming, with some already mentioned, a leading element in the population of that town, of whom, those of the name Pontius, Disinger, Reed, Hoster, Riegel, Singer, Shankwiler, Kuney, Deppen, Garnet, Alleman, Flickinger, Shaffer, Stoffet, Pratz, and Markel were among the earliest settlers.

The town of Fayette has much historic material to be preserved. Mention may here be made briefly of the early history of Mormonism in this locality and the translation or transcribing for publication of the Mormon Bible by Joseph Smith, the founder of Mormonism, in 1830, (in which year it was printed at Palmyra, N. Y.) while residing with the family of a Fayette farmer, Peter Whitmer, on Military Lot 13, who with Christian, Jacob, John David and Peter Whitmer, Jr., and others, became converts to Mormonism and followed Smith to Kirtland, Ohio, and onward in his removals westward. David Whitmer, one of the last survivors of these converts, died at Richmond, Missouri, a few years ago, (1885), at the age of eighty years.

A monument to the celebrated Indian Chief, Red Jacket, Sa-go-ya-wat-ha, was unveiled at his birth place at Canoga, in Fayette, under the auspices of the Waterloo Library and Historical Society, with appropriate ceremonies, October 14, 1891, and the exercises and proceedings upon that occasion, have been published in pamphlet form, by that society. Canoga and two other Indian villages near by, on Cayuga Lake, were destroyed by a detachment from General Sullivan's army, in September 1779.

The town of Seneca Falls, a part of the territory of the old town of Romulus, fittingly observed the centennial of its first

settlement, and made a suitable record of the pioneer services of Job Smith, Lawrence Van Cleef, Col. Wilhelmus Mynderse, David Lunn and others—on the fourth day of July, 1887. The Historical address on that occasion, was delivered by Henry Stowell, editor of the Seneca Falls Reveille.

The Library and Historical Society, at Waterloo as elsewhere stated, has laid aside in its archives, much material relating to the early history of that town, and the Indian village of Skoiyase, located therein,—a monument to commemorate the destruction of which, by a detachment of General Sullivan's army, having been dedicated in September, 1879, an account of which was published in a volume issued in 1880, entitled Seneca County Sullivan Centennial.

Let us hope, that the good people of the towns of Junius and Tyre, will collect and preserve such data as may still be accessible, to complete and perpetuate their early history, so far as possible.

The history of the old towns of Galen and Wolcott, former towns of Seneca county, until the erection of Wayne county, April 11, 1823—with the four towns afterwards erected therefrom, Savannah, Butler, Rose and Huron, (all a part of the territory of the original town of Romulus) has been intelligently and thoroughly written up, by Prof. Lewis H. Clark, of Sodus, in his Military History of Wayne County, issued in 1884.

A local History of the town of Rose, edited by Alfred S. Roe, under the title, "Rose Neighborhood Sketches," is now also in process of publication.

The towns of Romulus and Varick entered with a patriotic spirit upon the celebration of the centennial of American Independence, in 1876, and in 1879, when the centennial of the Sullivan expedition was observed at Waterloo, these towns also bore an important part in making the same a success. All honor is due to the Waterloo Library and Historical Society, for the successful management of that celebration, and for its zeal and activity, ever shown in efforts to collect and preserve facts and incidents relating to the settlement and history of Waterloo and its pioneer settlers, as indeed, in the absence of a county Historical society, it has ex-

tended its influence and efforts also to collect and preserve the early history of the several towns of this county. It is gratifying to know, that this society is worthily represented here to-day.

In 1889, the centennial of the first *settlement* of Romulus, was observed in this beautiful grove, where we this day meet, and our presiding officer of to-day, gave a very instructive and interesting address on that occasion, which doubtless gave some incentive also, to our celebration to-day.

The first century of our official existence now closed, has been one of progress and advancement verily from barbarism to civilization, in its highest forms.

It has witnessed the triumphs of steam and electricity as applied by the ingenuity of man, not only for motive and propelling power, but also in many other and diversified forms, to improve the condition, alleviate the labors and promote the highest and best interests of man—and no where has all this become more manifest, than to the dweller in a rural community, like ours.

We stand here, to-day, upon the threshold of the second century of official existence, and having taken a retrospective view of the century which has passed, let us now look forward to the future, with trust and confidence in the Divine Being, that He will mercifully direct the events of the future, as He has the past.

In closing, while thanking you for your kind attention, and with acknowledgments to all who assisted me, in collecting historical material, I can find no words more fitting, as adapted to this occasion, than those of a patriotic Statesman of New York, now deceased, whose name will ever stand high upon the scroll of our public men :

“The past is full of noble examples, animating us with patriotic love of our State and Nation, but we must not confine our attention to the past. The present and the future have their obligations. It is our duty to emulate the patriotism of our fathers. In all that concerns our Town, County, State, and common country, let us not only be mindful of the past, but in everything that affects education, morality, progress and patriotism, be animated by the spirit of the motto, emblazoned upon the shield of our State—*EXCELSIOR*.”

## APPENDIX TO HISTORICAL ADDRESS.

## APPENDIX A.

Abstract of Land Patents in Romulus Military township, taken from the State records at Albany :

<i>Names of Patentees.</i>	<i>Lot.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Subdivision.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>
Edmund Kelly .....	43	500		
Benjamin Dey .....		100	S. E.	
Wm. Jackson .....	44	600		
Temis L. Henion.....	45	600	1	191.9
John Gambee.....			2	68.8
" .....			3	79 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>
Elijah Miller.....			4	73.3
Michael Shetterly .....			5	46.5
" .....			6	48
Anthony Dey .....			7	64
(Survey 50 acres) .....				50
Col. Cornelius Van Dyck. ....	46	500		
John Beardsley.....		100	S. E.	
Abner Prior.....	47	500		
Jacob Hallett.....		100	S. E.	
John Armstrong .....	48	600		
Mordecai Hale .....	49	600		
*Gospel and School Lot .....	50	600		
Charles Thompson.....			1	180.20
David Dey .....				100
Alla McMath.....				173.46
John Mead.....				100
Gerrit W. Van Schaick, survey 50 acres .....			N. E.	50
Capt. James Gregg .....	51	600		
John Jacob .....	52	600		
Thomas Owens .....	53	500		
Robert McClellan.....		100	S. E.	
Col. James Livingston .....	54	600		
*Literature Lot .....	55	600		
John B. Schuyler .....				144
Jacob Lowdon.....				96
James Barr .....				192
James Karr .....				48
Purchaser Unknown.....				48
Peter W. Yates, Survey 50 acres. ....			N.W.	50
John P. Boyea.....	56	600		
John Stake .....	57	550		
John Beardsley .....		50		
Capt. H. Van Deburgh. ....	58	600	S. E.	

\*Deeded by Trustees of Lot.

\*Sold and deeded by Union College.

John Gamber .....	59	600	1	137
Elijah Miller .....			2	164
" .....			3	160
John Buys .....				60
J. A. Wade and others .....			4	155
Nathaniel Ayres .....				46.4
Abel Bacon .....			5	119.8
(Survey 50 acres) .....			S. W.	50
James Parker .....	60	600		
Christopher Queen .....	61	600		
Ephriam Blanchard .....	62	600		
Gen. Alex. McDougall .....	63	500		
Robert Troup .....			100 S. E.	
Benj. Goodale .....	64	600		
Richard Moore .....	65	500		
Peter Bainbridge .....			100 S. E.	
Eleazer Yeamans .....	66	600		
Ioshua Davis .....	67	600		
Arthur Hurley .....	68	600		
Joseph Jones .....	69	600		
John Green .....	70	600		
Peter Green .....	71	600		
James Goodall .....	72	600		
Timothy Green .....	73	600		
Jeremiah Smith .....	74	600		
Lieut. Jonathan Lawrence, jr. ....	75	600		
Lieut. Peter Tappan .....	76	600		
Abiel Petty .....	77	500		
Jeremiah Van Rensselaer .....			100 S. E.	
George Stock .....	78	500		
Wm. Gilleland, jr. ....			100 S. E.	
Lieut. Col. Cornelius Van Dyck .....	79	500		
Elkanah Watson .....			100 S. E.	
Thomas Bryan .....	80	500		
Philip Van Cortlandt .....			100 S. E.	
Daniel Dawson .....	81	600		
Alex. Munro .....	82	600		
Richard Platt .....	83	600		
Samuel Dodge .....	84	600		
Chas. McKenny .....	85	600		
Abraham Hodge .....	86	600		
Lieut. John Stagg, jr. ....	87	600		
Thomas Brooks .....	88	500		
John Beardsley .....			100 S. E.	
John Williams .....	89	600		
Lieut. Chas. F. Weissenfels .....	90	600		
John Cosgrove .....	91	500		
Robert McClellan .....			100 S. E.	
Lieut. Col. Benj. Walker .....	92	500		
Wm. Gilleland .....		100		
Isaiah Burch .....	93	600		
Robert Provoost .....	94	500		
Jacob Hallett .....			100 S. E.	
Michael Decker .....	95	500		
Cornelius C. Elmendorf .....			100 S. E.	
James Grace .....	96	600		

John Goodcourage.....	97	600	
Levi Burling.....	98	500	
John Robinson.....		100	S. E.
Florence Marony.....	99	600	
Thompson Bacon.....	100	600	

Patents for 500 acres and 600 acres each were issued during the month of July, 1790 -while patents for 100 acres or 50 acres or other subdivided lots were issued at later dates.

Awards made by Onondaga Commissioners in cases of disputed titles in Romulus Military township.

<i>Lots.</i>	<i>Names.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Date of Award.</i>
43	Benj. Dey.....	500	Nov. 14, 1798.
44	Peter W. Yates ..	50 S. E.	March 19, 1801.
46	G.W. VanSchaick, & H. Bleecker	500	Nov. 9, 1799.
	John Beardslee.....	100 S. E.	Dec. 13, 1800.
49	Benj. Dey.....	600	Nov. 14, 1798.
50	Gerrit W. VanSchaick.....	50 S. E.	Aug. 16, 1800.
51	Benj. Dey.....	600	Dec. 4, 1798.
52	Isaac Hathaway.....	50 S. W.	Nov. 5, 1799.
53	John Rogers heirs.....	100 S. E.	Nov. 11, 1800.
	Elkanah Watson ..	50 S. E.	May 6, 1800.
56	C. Glen & B. Bleecker....	600	Dec. 27, 1800.
57	Geo. M. Woolsey.....	550	Nov. 15, 1799.
58	Nicholas Fish.....	600	Sept. 10, 1800.
59	Caleb Benton.....	50 S. W.	Jan. 30, 1802.
60	Elkanah Watson.....	600	Dec. 3, 1798.
62	Margaretta Varick ..	50 S. W.	Aug. 15, 1800.
63	Robert Troup.....	100 S. E.	Aug. 16, 1800.
64	James McKnight ..	600	Nov. 24, 1800.
67	Margaretta Varick ..	50 S. W.	June 3, 1799.
69	Caleb Benton.....	50 S. W.	Jan. 30, 1802.
70	John D. Coe.....	600	Nov. 15, 1799.
71	James Reed.....	600	Oct. 31, 1799.
74	Robert Dill.....	550	Nov. 16, 1798.
	Peter W. Yates ..	50 S. W.	March 19, 1801.
77	Calvin Sanger.....	500	Nov. 15, 1798.
	Elkanah Watson ..	100 S. E.	Nov. 28, 1798.
79	" ..	500	Sept. 12, 1799.
	" ..	100 S. E.	Nov. 22, 1798.
80	Peter W. Yates ..	50 S. W.	March 19, 1801.
81	Gerrit W. VanSchaick ..	50 S. E.	Aug. 16, 1800.
86	Elkland Watson ..	600	Dec. 8, 1800.
88	Nathaniel Platt.....	500	Aug. 5, 1799.
	John Beardslee.....	100 S. E.	Dec. 13, 1800.
89	Wm. Thompson.....	550	March 30, 1798.
	Gerrit W. VanSchaick ..	50 S. W.	Nov. 17, 1798.
92	John Robison ..	500	Dec. 28, 1798.
	John D. Dickinson.....	100 S. E.	Oct. 17, 1799.
95	Elijah Kimme, Jr.....	500	Feby. 24, 1802.
	David Wisner.....	100 S. W.	Feby. 24, 1802.
97	John Dey.....	600	Feby. 23, 1802.

Copied from the "Book of Awards," filed in Cayuga County Clerk's Office. These Awards bear date during a period from March 30, 1798, to Feby. 24, 1802. The awards made as to Lots 60, 70, 71 and 79 were dissented to.

## WEST CAYUGA RESERVATION.

IN TOWN OF VARICK.

From records at Albany it appears lots were patented as follows :

<i>Lots.</i>	<i>To Whom Patented.</i>	<i>Date of Patent.</i>	<i>No. of Acres.</i>
58	Christian Kuney.....	September 17, 1811..	250
59	William Hill.....	Not ascertained....	250
60	William N. Bannister.. { .....	January 4, 1814....	250
	Lewis Nothnagle ..... { .....		
	Jacob Lautenschlager.. { .....		
61	David Harris.....	February 11, 1814...	155
62	Andrew Hood.....	September 17, 1811..	250
63	John Ansberger.....	April 27, 1832. ....	250
64	John Leisenring pt.....	November 6, 1816...	
	Amelia J. Schuyler pt.....	December 30, 1863 .	
	Charles Thompson pt.....	" "	
	Seneca P. King pt.....	" "	
65	Elijah Miller.....	November 9, 1816...	238
66	John Gamber.....	July 25, 1818.....	250
67	Henry Singer.....	May 30, 1809.....	250
68	Elijah Miller.....	November 9, 1816...	213
69	John Williams .....	March 5, 1816.....	208
70	John Gamber.....	July 5, 1810.....	250
71	Thomas Lowdon and George Clouser...	July 8, 1813. ....	250
72	Samuel Falkingburgh.....	January 7, 1811.....	200
73	Henry Pace.....	May 30, 1809.....	200
74	Henry Gardner.....	Not ascertained....	250
75	William Hill.....	April 20, 1815... ..	200
76	Samuel Phillips.....	May 30, 1809.....	208
77	Elias Christopher.....	July 8, 1813.....	214
78	Abraham Arnold.....	August 8, 1811.....	250
79	William Emmons.....	July 6, 1815 .. ...	250
80	Isaac Parker and Abraham Hoagland..	January 16, 1817....	216
81	David Quigley.....	June 14, 1816.....	223
82	David Edwards.....	June 1, 1815 .. ...	195
83	Henry Gardner...	February 29, 1808...	140
84	Daniel Christopher.....	May 30, 1809.....	184

## APPENDIX B.

"Memorial of inhabitants between the Seneca and Cayuga lakes in the Military Tract" presented to the Legislature June 27, 1795.

"Your petitioners, did in the year 1788, settle themselves between the lakes with the expectation of enjoying the lands, on which they were each settled and as at that early day they were not informed that the said lands were assigned for Military purposes.

Your petitioners therefore pray, that they may not be looked upon as intruders and violators of the laws, and as they have made large improvements between the Lakes, which a few years ago was wild, savage and un-

cultivated, but now has become an inhabited, fruitful and fertile country, which in a few months we expect to leave to the legal owners of the soil -- your Petitioners think it reasonable, that a compensation should be made to them for their improvements.

Signed by twenty-three persons including

NATHANIEL SWARTHOUT,  
ANTHONY SWARTHOUT,  
JOHN SWARTHOUT,  
DAVID DEPUE,  
DAVID WISNER,  
JAMES COOLEY,  
JAMES KING.



## APPENDIX C

... ..

[illegible]

$\frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{x}} \right) = \frac{\partial L}{\partial x}$

[illegible]

*Town Clerks to 1830.*

1794,	.....	WM. WINTER
1795, 96	.....	GEORGE BAILEY
1797, 98, 99, 1800.	.....	JOHN SAYRE
1801, 2, 3,	.....	DANIEL SAYRE
1804, 5, 6, 7	.....	JOSEPH WYCKOFF
1808, 9, 10, 11	.....	SILAS ALLEN
1812,	.....	EBENEZER CONKLIN
1813, 14,	.....	DAVID EDWARDS
1815, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22	.....	EBENEZER CONKLIN
1823, 24	.....	WM. H. KING
1825, 26, 27	.....	MATTHEW D. COE
1828, 29	.....	JOHN GEDDES

*Town Meetings, Where Held.*

1794	at Benajah Boardman's.
1795, 96,	at James McKnight's.
1797, to 1800, inclusive,	at John Sayre's.
1801, to 1810, inclusive,	at David Depue's.
1820, 21, 22,	at John Buys.
1823,	at Skillman Doty's.
1824,	at David Edwards.
1825,	at George Alexander's.
1826,	at David Depue's.
1827, 28, 29,	at George Alexander's.
1830, 31, 32, 33,	at Ira Giddings.
1834,	at Henry M. Schooley's.
1835,	at William Martin's.

Since 1835, town elections have been held at the centre of the town at Martin's, or in School House near there. In 1890, the town was divided into three election districts, for the holding of General State elections, with election polls at Willard, Hayt's Corners, and Romulus Village.

*Supervisors of Parick.*

1830,	.....	ANTHONY DEY
1831, 32, 33	.....	SAMUEL BLAIN
1834, 35, 36	.....	CHARLES LEMMON
1837,	.....	JOHN A. CHRISTOPHER
1838,	.....	DANIEL H. BRYANT
1839,	.....	JOHN A. CHRISTOPHER
1840,	.....	DAVID HARRIS
1841,	.....	JESSE ABBOTT
1842, 43	.....	ROBERT R. STEELE
1844,	.....	DANIEL H. BRYANT
1845, 46, 47	.....	JESSE ABBOTT
1848,	.....	JOSEPH GAMBEE
1849,	.....	JESSE ABBOTT
1850,	.....	ROBERT R. STEELE
1851,	.....	JESSE ABBOTT
1852,	.....	SOLOMON C. GAMBEE
1853, 54	.....	ABRAHAM LERCH
1855,	.....	WILLIAM BURROUGHS

1856,	.....	GEORGE S. CONOVER
1857, 58, 59	.....	WILLIAM BURROUGHS
1860,	.....	JOHN MONROE
1861, 62	.....	REV. DIEDRICH WILLERS
1863, 64	.....	ALFRED HUNT
1865, 66	.....	DIEDRICH WILLERS, JR.
1867, 68	.....	CALVIN WILLERS
1869, 70	.....	ALFRED HUNT
1871,	.....	BURROUGHS ROBERTS
1872, 73, 74	.....	HENRY F. TROTTMAN
1875,	.....	RALPH P. ROBERTS
1876,	.....	DAVID H. MANEE
1877, 78	.....	DR. FRANK H. FLOOD
1879, 80	.....	JOHN V. CRANE
1881, 82, 83	.....	HENRY C. LISK
1884, 85, 86	.....	DANIEL C. BURROUGHS
1887, 88, 89	.....	OLIN E. EMENS
1890,	.....	JOHN MCKNIGHT
1891,	.....	ARTHUR H. BROOKS
1892, 93, 94	.....	OGDEN WHEELER

Town meetings in Varick from 1836 to 1855, were usually held alternately at John V. Manning's at the west end, and Samuel Lerch's on Military Lot 54, at the Northeast end. Since 1856, town meetings alternate between Bearytown and Romulus village. From 1842 to 1855, general elections were held in two election districts, at Manning's and Lerch's and since 1856 at Bearytown and Romulus village.

#### APPENDIX D.

##### *Teachers Boarding and Wood Lists.*

The following will exhibit a true copy of the wood and board found during the quarter last past, ending January 21st, 1825, viz :

Mr. J. Hathaway, 1 cord of wood, ten days board.  
 Mr. T. Mann, 1 cord of wood, 12 days board.  
 Mr. D. Garrigus,  $\frac{1}{2}$  cord wood, 6 days board.  
 Mr. A. Baldrige, 3 days board,  $\frac{3}{4}$  cord of wood.  
 Mr. R. Barr, 5 days board, 1 cord of wood.  
 Mr. D. Dey, 12 days board, 1 cord of wood.  
 Mr. A. McKnight, 3 days board,  $\frac{1}{2}$  cord of wood.  
 Mr. S. McMath, 4 days board.  
 Mr. E. Beach, 3 days board,  $\frac{1}{4}$  cord of wood.  
 Mr. Jac. Lowden, 1 days board,  $\frac{3}{4}$  cord of wood.  
 Mr. James Lowden, 6 days board.  
 Mr. A. Lyon, 1 days board,  $\frac{1}{2}$  cord of wood.  
 Mr. Markle, 1 cord of wood, 8 days board.  
 Mr. Bargar, 1 days board,  $\frac{1}{2}$  cord of wood.  
 Mr. Wilcox, 2 days board.  
 Mr. Karr, 2 days board,  $\frac{1}{2}$  cord of wood.  
 Mr. Smith, 1 days board,  $\frac{1}{2}$  cord of wood.  
 Capt. T. Ludlum,  $\frac{1}{2}$  cord of wood, 1 days board.  
 Mr. J. Beach,  $\frac{1}{4}$  cord of wood.

Dispute this if you can.

R. WEBSTER, Teacher.

Copied in 1870, from the original, in possession of Jacob A. Mann, of Varick, since deceased.

## APPENDIX E.

Return of Electors in the town of Romulus, County of Cayuga, 1801.

<i>Heads of Families.</i>	<i>Electors possessed of Free- holds of the val- ue of £100.</i>	<i>Electors possessed of Free- holds of the val- ue of £20, and under £100</i>	<i>Electors not possessed of Freeholds, but who rent ten- ants yearly value of 40 shillings.</i>
John Seeley .....	1		
Mahlon Bainbridge. ....	1		
William Seeley.....	1		
Jacob Hathaway.....	1		
Thomas Combs .....	1		
Haynes Bartlett .....	1		
James McKnight.....	1		
Alla McMath.....	1		
William Mount.....		1	
Peter Quigley.....		1	
William Brewster.....	1		
Jesse Brewster.....			1
John Bainbridge.....			1
James Goble.....			1
Michael Baldrige.....	1		
Frederic Kisler .....			1
Ehel Goble.....			1
John Fleming.....	1		
Stephen Miller.....	1		
Abner Bainbridge.....			1
Jonathan Lewis.....			1
William Stottle .....			1
Joseph Ker.....			1
William Buzenbark.....			2
William Barney.....			1
John Tindall .....			1
Joseph Hunt. ....	1		
Silas Beers.....	1		
James Seeley.....	1		
Timothy James .....	1		
Phineas Tuthill.....	1		
Jonas Seeley.....	1		
Charles Stewart.....			1
David Price.....	1		
Benjamin Sutton.....	1		
Asa Smith.....	1		
Walter Watrus.....	1		
James Watrus.....			1
William Shattuck.....		1	
Eliphalet Shattuck.....	1		
John Stone.....	1		
James Wiley.....	1		
William Blain.....		1	
Alexander Brown.....			1
Jonathan Baitman .....		1	

## CENTENNIAL OF ROMULUS.

65-

James Bailey .....	1	
Abner Bailey .....		1
Jonathan Bailey .....		1
Thomas Burgess .....		1
Benjamin Burgess .....	1	
James Woodruff .....		1
William Osborn .....		1
William W. Dekay .....		1
Joshua Hallock .....	1	
Samuel Bailey .....	1	
Andrew Dunnet .....	1	
George Wilkin .....	1	
John Halbert .....		1
James King .....	1	
Francis Antony .....		1
Thomas Parkins .....		1
Israel Harris .....		1
Peter Huff .....	1	
David Depue .....	1	
Bastian Williams .....		1
Michael Van Cort .....		1
Jesse Kilpatrick .....		1
Walter Ker .....		1
Joseph Finton .....		1
Joseph Wicoff .....	1	
John Terhune .....	1	
Albert Earl .....	1	
William Huff .....	1	
William Hood .....	1	
John Hood .....	1	
George Hood .....	1	
Andrew Hood .....	1	
Joseph Haynes .....	2	
John Alexander .....	1	
James Alexander .....		1
Robert White .....	1	
John Williams .....		1
Barna Swarthout .....	1	
John Swarthout .....	1	
David Wisner .....	1	
Elijah Kinne .....	1	
Ephraim Kinne .....	1	
Nat Swarthout .....	1	
Anthony Swarthout .....	1	
Joseph Lewis .....		1
Jeremiah Decker .....		1
Reuben Denton .....	1	
Michael Mead .....	1	
Samuel Reed .....	1	
Zebedee Stout .....	1	
John Sage .....	1	
Samuel Waldron .....	1	
Francis Hagerman .....	1	
John Hagerman .....	1	
Daniel Mathews .....		1
Abel Baker .....		1

Peter Huff, Jr. ....			1
James Brown. ....			2
Andrew McKnight. ....	1		
James Barr. ....	1		
Henry Beers. ....	1		
Gabriel Beach. ....	1		
Samuel Easton. ....	1		
Josiah Easton. ....	1		
Ezekiel Beach. ....	1	1	
Jabez Beach. ....		1	
Jonas Beach. ....			
Isaac Hathaway. ....	1		
Joseph Hathaway. ....	1		
Robert Wilson. ....	1		1
George Waldorff. ....			1
Abraham Waldorff. ....			1
James Lamb. ....	1		
Benjamin Lemmon. ....	1		
John Lacy. ....	1		
John Hathaway. ....	1		
Edward Spalding. ....	1		1
James Cooley. ....			1
Asa Whitehead. ....			1
Henry Gray. ....			1
Thomas Lowden. ....			1
Isaias Lewis. ....			1
George Lamb. ....			1
John Sinclear. ....			1
David Lamb. ....			1
Charles Woodruff. ....			1
Sears Beach. ....			
Benjamin Dey. ....	1		
Jacob Lowden. ....	1		1
Peter Basum. ....			1
Anthony VanAkin. ....			1
John Arnold. ....			1
Peter Stottle. ....			1
George Stottle. ....			
Lewis Lafever. ....	1		
Joseph Yerkes. ....	1		
William Purdy. ....	1		
Thomas Purdy. ....	1		
Charles Dickerson. ....	1		1
James Merit. ....			1
John Waldron. ....			
John Birt. ....	1		
Thomas Blam. ....	1		
George Dewy. ....		1	
Philip Bunn. ....		1	
John Whitney. ....	1		
Samuel Whitney. ....	1		
Amos Denton. ....	1		1
Stephen Sherwood. ....			1
Elijah Chard. ....			1
William Rowley. ....			1
Joseph Barber. ....			

Samuel Brown.....		1
Jacob Brown.....		1
John Boice, Jr.....		1
Jacob Boice.....	1	
John Boice.....		2
Joshua Tuthill.....		1
Daniel Sayre.....	1	
———Dunlap.....		1
Adonijah Osborn.....		1
Andrew Smith.....	1	
David Smith.....		1
David Burroughs.....	1	
Abel Frisbie.....	1	
Isaac Johnson.....	1	
Samuel Thurstin.....		1
Samuel Gordon.....		1
Samuel Falkenburg.....	1	
Henry Grier.....		1
James Ker.....		1
Sam'l Ker.....		1
Elijah Graton.....		1
Benjamin Badgley.....		1
John Sayre.....	1	

I, John Sayre, do certify this Census to be true, according to the best of my knowledge and belief.

October 20th, 1801.

JOHN SAYRE.

NOTE—The spelling of names herein, conforms to the original list.

#### APPENDIX F.

"The Rev. Diedrich Willers, D. D., died at his residence, in the town of Varick, Seneca County, N. Y., on Sunday, May 13th, 1883, in the 86th year of his age.

He was born at Walle, near Bremen, Germany, February 6, 1798. He entered the army of Hanover, September, 1814, and served in the German division of the allied army for nearly five years; was an active participant in the memorable battle of Waterloo, Belgium, June 16, 17, and 18, 1815, with the allied army, under the Duke of Wellington.

In this battle, the company of which he was a member, consisting of 120 men, was reduced to 12 privates and two non-commissioned officers, and the battalion of 400 men, to less than 80 survivors.

He continued with the allied forces, as army of occupation in France, for three years, after the downfall of Bonaparte, when he was honorably discharged and awarded a silver medal in recognition of his military services.

He arrived in the United States in November 1819, and engaged in school teaching, while preparing for the ministry, and so thorough was his application, that he was ordained to the ministry in 1821.

He was settled in that year, as pastor of the German Reformed Church, at the hamlet of Bearytown, in central Seneca County, and ministered to that people, for a consecutive period of sixty years and eight months, and until January 1st, 1882, when his resignation took effect, rendered necessary by growing infirmities.

While ministering to his own people, he served also, at different periods at six other preaching points in the county, and at seven or eight other points in Tompkins, Cayuga, Wayne, Livingston and Niagara Counties, performing a large proportion of the travel, incident to so extended a field of labor, on horseback, especially during the first half of his ministry.

During this ministry, he preached about 5,800 regular Sunday discourses, almost equally divided between the German and English language, besides many funeral and special discourses, and performed a large amount of ministerial labor, in the solemnization of marriages, and in the administration of the rites of baptism and confirmation.

He received the degree of Doctor of Divinity from Franklin Marshall College, at Lancaster, Pa." GEORGE S. CONOVER,

In General John Sullivan's Indian Expedition, State publication, of 1887.

#### APPENDIX G.

Diedrich Willers, Jr., son of Rev. Dr. Diedrich and Frances Willers, was born in Varick, N. Y., Nov. 3, 1833. He was educated principally in the District school and under the direction of his father.

In his youth he taught school for several years, and afterwards graduated as a student-at-law, at the Albany Law University.

He was elected Supervisor of Varick, in 1865, and 1866. He had also served as Private Secretary to Governor Horatio Seymour in 1864. His service in the office of the Secretary of State at Albany, at different periods, covered six years as a clerk, eight years as Deputy, and two years as Secretary of State, to which office he was elected at the State election in Nov. 1873.

In November 1877, he was elected Member of Assembly for Seneca County, and served as such in the Legislature of 1878.

J. WILFORD JACKS, Chairman of Executive Committee.



Calvin Willers, son of Rev. Dr. Diedrich and Frances Willers, was born in Varick, Dec. 9, 1840. He received his education in the public and academic schools, and in his youth taught for a number of years in District schools of the county. In the spring of 1867, he was elected Supervisor of Varick, and was re-elected without opposition in 1868. In November 1868, he was elected County Clerk of Seneca County, and served a full term of three years as such, at Ovid.

In January, 1874, he entered upon the duties of Chief Clerk, in the office of the Secretary of State at Albany, which position he held up to the time of his death, April 9, 1875.

During the latter years of his life he pursued the study of law, and had he lived, would have been admitted to the Bar, at the session of court in the month following his death.

Benjamin Dey, referred to, (page 28), as one of the earliest settlers in Varick, was born at Preakness, New Jersey, Dec. 11, 1761. He died at his home on Military Lot 49, March 24, 1822, and was buried in a grave on his farm.

The parents of Arazina Cone Fleming, were married Nov. 26, 1793, (see pages 30 and 31). Mrs. Fleming on the 9th of October, 1894, reached her one hundredth birthday, and is still living at the time of publication hereof, Nov. 1894.



# Historical Address

Delivered by Diedrich Willers, of Varick,  
June 13, 1894, at the

## Centennial Celebration

Of the Official Organization of the Town of  
Romulus, N. Y.

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